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This is definitely not a woman's world

Nordwest Zeitung

Women are not so fortunate as the men in this country. Every fourth woman, according to the Allensbach Market Research Institute, would rather be a man. But the men in this country are quite contented with their lot. Is a man's life in this country indeed more agreeable and simple than that of a woman? Why are so many women regretful that they are women? Psychologists, men and women give different answers to this situation.

Hamburg psychologist Attila Szabo suggests women who would rather be men must at some time have experienced some kind of frustation in their woman's role. He includes in this group women who have been hampered in their career simply because they were women, or women who have been impeded because they have had to bring up children. He claims that women who were dominated by brothers when young and as girls and regarded as of no account are probables. He also mentions women who have been jilted.

Attila Szabo believes that the results of this survey are alarming. When every fourth women is unhappy at being a woman there is obviously something wrong with the society in which she lives. Attila Szabo conceded: "The supposition many women have that men have a better time of it is only partly true. Men as family breadwinners also have to put up with psychological problems."

Men obviously like to hear remarks of this ilk. Karlheinz K., 41, a dentist, said: "I earn quite enough to take care of my wife and our three children and the salary my wife earns as a commercial artist comes in quite handy, but when it comes down to brass tacks I am basically responsible for providing for the family. If I could no longer work it would be very difficult for us, far more so than if my wife gave up her job and became just a housewife again."

On the other hand Annemarie P., a 32-year-old teacher, outlined a daily problem that women have to face up to and which never besets men. She said: "A woman could not even today go into a good restaurant alone without the head waiter giving her side-long glances. It is quite natural for a man to chat to a girl if he likes her, but not the other way round. A man will ask a girl to dance but never the other way round even though she is his girlfriend and intends to marry him one day. Women can act as emancipated as they like but in the end they have to deal with men who find emacipated women distasteful."

Christine H., 25 and married working as a secretary in Munich, does not want to hear anything about emancipation. She said: "The people who did the survey did not ask me but if they had I would have told them that I would rather be a man. The much talked about emancipation of women only imposes on women more responsibilities but does not give them more rights."

She questioned the value of emancipation and pointed out that women doing the same job as men were still paid less than the men.

She continued: "Sharing the housework is all well and good in theory but what do I do with a man who comes into the kitchen in all good faith and prepares a meal that is beyond description and burns the saucepans." Statistics give some validity to her view. Seventy seven per cent of men said they would like to help in the house and with looking after the children, but only twenty per cent had actually done so. In a situation of this sort it is not surprising that few men relished being women. Attila Szabo said: "For centuries men have had suggested to them they are superior beings to women. In fact so often that they now believe it."

Ingeborg Lierct

(Nordwest Zeitung, 3 February 1973)



(Photo: Archiv)

Euratom

Continued from page 8

disgrace of having to admit that Euratom was being wound up.

And so the story continued for years and years. The annual allocutions were just enough to keep the pot of existing projects on the boil and ensure that research scientists at Ispra, the principal Euratom facility, did not spend their entire time swimming in Lago Maggiore.

In 1970, for instance, the Ministers refused to give the go-ahead for a sixteen-million-dollar project that was highly interesting both technologically and economically: the development of a new type of fast neutron reactor.

Simultaneously the Common Market Agriculture Ministers reached agreement on fresh hemp and flax regulations costing the Community 25 million dollars a year. This is typical of Common Market priorities.

In recent years Euratom has only once hit the headlines in respect of nuclear matters – in connection with the test-ban treaty. An inspection agreement was to be concluded between the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna and the European Atomic Energy Community.

This agreement presented considerable problems, France, a Euratom member, not having signed the test-ban treaty. Agreement was finally reached last summer.

In the meantime all concerned were so sick and tired of joint research that it seemed only a matter of time before Euratom was wound up. Some such move was expected to be made at the meeting of the Council of Ministers scheduled for the first week in February.

But there was more to it than met the eye. By the terms of the 1957 Treaty of Rome the Council of Ministers is not entitled to dissolve the Community. This could only be brought about by means of a treaty amendment, which in its turn could only be passed by a special conference of member-countries.

Faced with the choice of either confronting the newly-enlarged Common Market with an act of self-immolation or carrying on as before the Ministers opted for what they considered to be the lesser evil and quickly approved a four-year research programme costing 740 million Marks.

Jürgen Schmitz-Feuck

(Kölner Stadt Anzeiger, 9 February 1973)

The captain was a lady

The Deutsche Atlantik line was a year ago the first shipping company in this country to break with a long-held tradition. Two girls have been signed on the line's training ship, *Karonga*, hoping one day to become ships' captains. For years this has been a profession very much a male stronghold. Deutsche Atlantik has made a start and is the first shipping line in this country to do so.

This shipping line has for a number of years had women as 'sparks' – radio operators – so it was only natural that women should be considered as potential captains.

Initial difficulties were quickly overcome. The scepticism that the men had for the idea of women training to be masters of a ship was speedily overcome when it was noticed that the two candidates did not expect to be given any kind of special treatment. They have been fully integrated into the ship's crew.

After a year of trials the Deutsche Atlantik line has decided to go ahead with training schemes for women to become deck officers and ultimately captains. Recently two other candidates began a training course at the merchant navy's training school in Hamburg with the view of eventually signing on as trainees on the *Karonga*.

The line's management has to decide at some time in the future it will prepared to assign the responsibility of a ship to a woman. The line already has women at the top, Liselotte von Rantzau-Essberger, and the line makes obvious that it consideres qualifications more important in taking over command at sea than the sex of the person who has the command.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 10 February 1973)

Patents Office for Munich

After an almighty tug-of-war it has now been decided where the European Patents Office will be housed: the Munich city council has settled on a sight on the river Isar opposite the Deutsches Museum.

This the first international authority to come to Munichm with twenty European countries represented, will have its new offices by 1976. The project will cost between 300 and 500 million Marks.

(Handelsblatt, 2 February 1973)

Burial at sea for all offered in Hamburg

The notice on the door reads: "Burial at Sea Company". The office is near the Alster around which Hamburg has grown up. Max J. van der Ster, 42, has founded the company and has sent out glossy prospectuses inviting people to consider a burial at sea.

For 620 Marks excluding value added tax (total price 688.20 Marks) Max van der Ster offers a burial service that has nothing to do wtih the traditional forms of laying people to rest.

Max van der Ster, by training an electrical engineer and recently dealing in import and export, believes that his new company meets a public need. He said: "I have already had a lot of enquiries, more from people living inland than from people living along the coast. Each day I receive letters of enquiry."

Max van der Ster's project which will surely earn money for him is a new innovation among shipping circles. In his prospectus he claims that he came upon the idea when he thought about the problems his wife would have to face if he suddenly died.

More and more people, Max van der Ster claims, are making arrangements for their own burial so as not to inconvenience relatives and friends when the time comes.

Max van der Ster's company, which is shortly to be renamed "The First German Burial at Sea Service" hopes to provide this need. The company will take charge of the ashes, transport them to a port and aided by seamen ensure that they are deposited at sea.

The price includes a chart marking the location where the urn has been lowered into the waters and a copy of the entry in the ship's logbook.

The company has not yet gone into action but shortly the first charter vessel will leave Travemünde with the first urn to be deposited in the Baltic. The ship's flag will be flown at half mast and shanty or Bach can be played.

Max van der Ster will not only sail from Travemünde for the Baltic but also from Cuxhaven and Emden for the North Sea as far as Gibraltar and the Mediterranean and Atlantic.

Max van der Ster does not consider himself to be a pioneer but a man who over-rides taboos. But he is unable to offer people a true seaman's burial, when the body itself is consigned to the waves. Legislation dating from 1906 gives only seamen the right to burial at sea in this way. It is only permitted to consign ashes of non-seaman to the ocean's depths.

Max van der Ster is now making enquiries in Munich and Göttingen to see if the authorities have the right to control if an urn is to be deposited in the ocean or if ashes can be strewn over the water.

Hinrich Grote

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 27 January 1973)

The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 15 March 1973
Twelfth Year - No. 570 - By air

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Monetary crisis is a testing time for the EEC

Frankfurter Rundschau

Money matters have come to be Europe's $64 000 question. With the curve on the fever chart of the international monetary system going up and up and every success so for achieved having turned out to be a Pyrrhic victory, the customary bromides are no longer enough in Western Europe.

Bonn has rightly come to the conclusion that there is little point left in talking about European economic and monetary union as long as the countries concerned cannot even agree on a joint approach towards negotiations on a reform of the international monetary system.

With an easy conscience this argument can be taken further. European integration will fail to appear credible unless the countries concerned succeed in jointly emerging from the current succession of grave crises.

The dollar influx into the coffers of the Bundesbank made the meeting between Chancellor Brandt and Premier Heath of Britain unintentionally topical

Mr Heath's purpose in visiting Bonn had been to lay the groundwork for the future of Europe in conjunction with the Chancellor. In the wake of the January Franco-Federal Republic summit the aim was to demonstrate that the new three-cornered relationship between Bonn, Paris and London will benefit rather than hinder the European Community.

The two statesmen's original intention had been to discuss monetary problems merely in passing, as it were, with the international monetary conference in Nairobi that is scheduled for next September here and now.

Regrettable it may be that the idyll at picturesque Schloss Gymnich, near Bonn, was so rudely interrupted, but the sudden intervention of reality was not without its good points.

Western Europe heads of government have so far agreed that Rome was not built in a day and there can be few things more popular in Western Europe at the moment than target planning for the next few years.

Good reasons there may be for medium- and long-term planning in each and every instance, but the powers that be may be harbouring illusions as to the time that remains at their disposal.

The demands that are made on Western Europe from without have assumed such proportions that internal consolidation of the Common Market has to be accelerated.

The Bonn Federal government bases its assumptions regarding monetary crises past and future on two premises. As a matter of principle the solution arrived at must on no account jeopardise economic and political cooperation between Western Europe and the United States. Furthermore, national ailments must not be cured at the expense of Western European cooperation.

There can be no doubt that this country, were it to go it alone and float the Mark, would put the Community on the spot. On the other hand, Bonn has no alternative should the countries of Western Europe not agree to float their currencies jointly.

In a situation such as this no one can claim to be the better "European." Bearing in mind its partners in Europe this country may have footed the speculators' bill so far, but Britain, Italy and even France are in a position that is anything but satisfactory.



British Premier Heath with Chancellor Brandt at Schloss Gymnich. The two leaders met for general discussions but on 3 March Mr Heath returned to London because of the worsening monetary crisis. (Photo: dpa)

Britain and Italy are groaning under the strain of unemployment figures that render even the slightest increase in export prices dangerous in the extreme. Were the European Community to float currencies jointly even France would run a risk of suffering from pressure to revalue the Mark and sustaining losses in export markets that prove hard enough to find as it is.

Were these countries to float jointly they would certainly be making sacrifices, the extent of which cannot be overestimated in Britain's case.

Which ever way the problem is examined, Western Europe is caught between two stools. Since a further devaluation of the dollar is out of the question and a root-and-branch reform of the international monetary system remains a faint hope for the time being, the solution must this time be found jointly in the capital cities of Western Europe.

It may sound tempting to suggest that a number of member-states of the Nine might be excused from the exercise in joint floating for a limited period, but in the long run any such solution would represent a wretched compromise leading inevitably to the formation of blocs within the Common Market.

The choice between a common Western European response and national emergency measures inevitably confronts Europe. This is a testing time and there can be no avoiding the fact.

Hans Kepper

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 March 1973)

IN THIS ISSUE

Khartoum murders do no good to Arab nationalism

Khartoum has hit international headlines much as it did ninety years ago when General Gordon was beleaguered by the Mahdi. This time the attackers were Palestinian guerrillas who had taken over the Saudi Arabian embassy.

The murder of the three diplomats has at one fell swoop made the situation in the Middle East more dangerous by far, even though matters had already come to a head as a result of the air catastrophe over Sinai.

Yet even from the Arab or Palestinian viewpoint the terrorist coup in Khartoum represents a dubious achievement. What with the use of a Land Rover and Sudanese army uniforms the coup may have been staged with the utmost precision, but it allows of none but catastrophic inferences as to anarchist influence within the outsider Black September organisation.

Within various pan-Arab organisations and bodies in Cairo politicians and diplomats were unable to believe their ears on hearing the news of the attack on an Arab embassy, the murders, the retention of two Arab ambassadors as hostages and the demand made by the eight guerilla fighters.

Even in the Arab world a dim view was taken of the terrorists' demand for the release members of the Baader-Meinhof group in this country. Slowly but surely even Palestinians are coming to release that the Black September organisation must no longer be allowed to blemish the name of the Palestinian Arabs' freedom struggle.

These extremists are increasingly viewed as adventurers with more in common with international anarchist conspiracies than with the cause of Arab nationalism.

The nihilistic attitude of the Khartoum commandos was evident from the start by virtue of the faint likelihood of their unrealistic demands from a whole number of countries ever being fulfilled.

Their intention was not to achieve constructive aims but to conduct a series of murders. Their choice of time, place and method would do the best of general staffs credit.

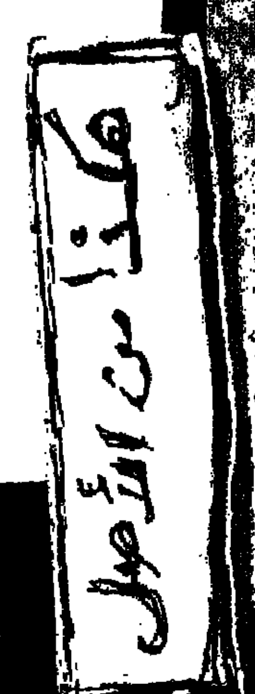
As regards the juncture, Black September must have felt that their move would pale in significance beside the downing of a Libyan airliner by Israel. What is more, the guerillas chose the very moment at which their Palestinian compatriots feel they may emerge empty-handed from the various moves to bring about a settlement in the Middle East.

Their move was also levelled at the Sudan and Sudanese President Numeiri. Khartoum's establishment of normal relations with the United States and its recent policy of standing aloof from pan-Arab commitments have occasioned ill-feeling in many Middle Eastern capitals.

These are all factors that the guerillas took into account, and it will come as even less of a surprise to them that their bloodshed may well have brought to an abrupt and sticky end the tangible prospects of peace in the Middle East.

Heinz Ostreth

(Neue Hannoversche, 5 March 1973)



■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Bonn-Cairo ties continue to improve

Last September, when Palestinian guerillas took members of the Israeli Olympic team hostage in Munich, massacred them in the course of a controversial police attempt to intervene and were themshelves shot to ribbons, Bonn's newly-appointed ambassador in Cairo, Hans Georg Steltzer, had just unpacked his bags.

It looked very much as though he would have to pack them again promptly. Diplomatic ties between Bonn and Cairo, painstakingly re-established after a break of seven years, threatened to break again, this time under the strain of the Munich catastrophe.

Authoritative sources in Cairo attribute the maintenance of diplomatic ties largely to the good offices of Herr Steltzer. The ambassador, the Egyptians say, responded and argued with tact and understanding. He calmy bided his time while Cairo made him wait more than two months before he was able to present his credentials.

The Munich massacre has long been shelved in Bonn's embassy on the Nile delta island of Dokki, Cairo. The political backlog of seven years without diplomatic ties is such that there is no time for contemplation of the past.

"The doors are open", Herr Steltzer says, referring to the prospects of recommencing the dialogue and relations between Bonn and Cairo in all sectors.

In the economic sector new and solid foundations have, so both sides hope, been established by the debts agreement recently signed in Cairo. It provides for the funding of some 470 million Marks in Egyptian debts to this country over a period of twenty years on terms considered by both sides to be fair and realistic.

Export credit guarantees to the value of eighty million Marks are designed to pack punch to this country's exports to Egypt, both exports and imports having set into a decline in recent years even though the Federal Republic remains Egypt's major trading partner among countries with hard currencies.

Bonn's 160 million Marks in capital aid represents a powerful shot in the arm for the Egyptian economy — the first, indeed, since 1963, when this country provided Egypt with 230 million Marks in development aid.

Ninety million Marks worth of this total are to consist of goods and services for the renewal and modernisation of Egypt's means of production. The remaining seventy million Marks are to be invested in development projects.

Egypt has hopes of this country showing greater interest in development projects of all kinds – oil prospecting, the Quattara Depression project and the construction of new hotels so urgently needed by Egypt's tourist trade. Cairo is anxious to attract capital investment by this country ba means of appropriate legislative considerations.

Economic plans for the future are, however, confronted by an insuperable hurdle in the shape of the political reality of suspended animation midway between war and peace in the Middle East.

As long as tension continues and a political solution of the conflict is not arrived at, Bonn and Cairo fully realise that investment and development projects will at best be implemented at half-cock.

This is doubtless one of the reasons why Cairo is endeavouring to breathe political life into its new ties with Bonn, although the fact is not being emphasised in public statements.

Bonn might be able to act as an honest broker for Egyptian views and requirements, Cairo government sources hint. Bonn's good offices could be brought to bear within the Common Market, with which Egypt would like to establish closer ties.

They could also be put to good effect in Washington and Moscow, where — so Cairo feels — Chancellor Brandt's international reputation as a neutral advocate of a fair settlement in the Middle East carries weight.

In discussions with the head of the political section of the Bonn Foreign Office Egyptian Foreign Minister Sayat and other members of government outlined this and similar views. Herr van Well of the Foreign Office headed this country's economic delegation that concluded the two agreements with Egypt in mid-February.

In the course of a ten-day stay in the Egyptian capital Herr van Well had ample time and opportunity for conducting political talks in addition to the economic negotiations.

Now that Cairo has come to the conclusion that the Social and Free Democratic coalition in Bonn is seriously intent on observing strict neutrality in the Middle East conflict and favours a settlement along the lines of the UN Security Council resolution No. 242 it is only logical for President Sadat to include this country in its latest Middle Eastern initiatives.

This would seem to be indicated by the fact that President Sadat's security adviser Hafes Ismail has visited Chancellor Brandt and Foreign Minister Scheel in Bonn in the wake of his political missions in Moscow, London and Washington in order to outline to the Bonn government Cairo's views on possible steps in the direction of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

This visit is the first paid to Bonn by an influential Egyptian politician for more than seven years and the fact that Egypt has made the first move is a further indication of the importance that Cairo attaches to its new ties with this country.

These links will doubtless be further consolidated in the course of Foreign Minister Scheel's visit to Cairo. This visit was originally planned for early March but later postponed to the second half of May on account of a kidney operation that has upset Herr Scheel's timetable.

The impression one gains in the Egyptian capital is that the resumption of relations is by no means to end with the exchange of ambassadors. It is felt to represent the beginning of an active policy towards the Middle East on Bonn's part that has met with approval in Cairo.

Carl E. Buchalla

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 March 1973)

Bonn maintains a neutral stance in Mid-East conflict

Hafes Ismail, special adviser to President Sadat of Egypt, arrived in Bonn on 28 February for talks with Chancellor Willy Brandt and State Secretary Paul Frank of the Foreign Office.

The following day Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohammed Masmoudi stopped over in Bonn, also for talks with State Secretary Frank.

Both visits bear witness to political activity by Bonn on the Middle East question, as does the visit paid to the Sudan, also on 28 February, by Karl Moersch, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Foreign Office.

The Federal government considers talks of this kind to be part and parcel of the "normal role" that Bonn's foreign policy is gradually coming to assume.

Egyptian security adviser Ismail had expressed interest in continuing in Bonn the consultations he had been conducting in connection with the Middle East conflict in London, Washington and New York.

The Bonn government welcomed the opportunity of explaining its views on the Middle East and of making it clear that this country's leeway is strictly limited.

In Bonn's view the responsibility for a peace settlement in the Middle East lies mainly with the countries immediately concerned and with the United States and the Soviet Union.

Within this framework the Federal government is more than willing to promote meaningful developments that might lead to a peace settlement.

Fundamentally, the Foreign Office emphasises, the Federal government must bear three considerations in mind in its policy on the Middle East. They are:

1. In view of the historical background relations between this country and Israel are, Bonn feels, of a special nature. "This," says State Secretary Frank, "is a point on which we must stand firm."

This is not to say that a special political relationship such as that between this country and France exists, based as the latter is on a friendship agreement. This country and Israel are nonetheless linked by special commitments such as reparations payments and capital aid.

2. Bilateral ties with individual Arab countries are felt to vary greatly in quality. Bonn considers relations with a number of countries such as Morocco and Tunisia, with which ties have never been broken off, to be cordial.

The Federal government is intent in improving relations with a number of other countries. With others this stag[e] yet to be reached. This being the cas[e] Foreign Office warns against genera[lisations] in the context of relations between [this] country and the Arab world.

3. On the Middle East conflict [the] Federal government's official attitu[de is] one of "neutrality but not disinte[rest]". Bonn remains neutral by virtue o[f its] decision not to supply arms to [any] country in the region yet shows inte[rest] in being willing to conduct pol[itical] discussions on the prospects of resol[ving] the conflict.

Any attempt to confuse these t[wo] aspects would, in the opinion of [the] Foreign Office, jeopardise Bonn's pre[sent] policy as there would then be a ri[sk of] one side or the other involving [this] country in the conflict.

Petroleum will play a crucial role i[n the] future implementation of Bonn's p[olicy] on the Middle East, particularly as re[gards] developments in the Persian Gulf r[egion].

At present, according to the Fo[reign] Office, this country's annual petro[leum] requirements amount to 120 million [tons,] probably increasing to 220 million [tons]

DIE WELT

per annum by 1980. Estimated o[verall] Western European requirements b[y the] end of the decade will amount to a[bout] 1,000 million tons.

At present this country imports [...] cent of its petroleum requirements [from] Libya, Algeria and Nigeria. The Fe[deral] government feels this to represe[nt an] undesirable degree of dependence [which] must, if possible, be eliminated. [In this] context the development of rel[ations] with Iran will play a crucial role.

At the Foreign Office a distinct[ion is] drawn between two categori[es of] suppliers as regards crude oil. The [first] category is considered to be "co[opera]tive", being cooperative wi[th the] petrochemical industry in the explo[itation] of crude oil from well to garage for[ecourt] and also ensuring political security.

The second category is cons[idered] liable to utilise petroleum as a wea[pon in] the political struggle between [the] developed and the underdev[eloped] countries.

As a general principle the Fed[eral] government is eager to establish co[rdial] relations with the Arab count[ries] concerned in order better to res[olve] economic problems that arise. [It is] assumed that by the eighties oil sup[plies] will no longer be ensured by the free p[lay] of market forces.

Bernt Con[rad]

(Die Welt, 1 March [1973])

Middle East problem comes to the fore after Vietnam

Even if the Israelis had not shot down a Libyan airliner, thereby again demonstrating the dangers inherent in the Middle Eastern situation, this constant crisis-corner of the world would soon have hit the headlines again.

Once the Vietnam war had been brought to a conclusion the great powers were bound to consider a settlement in the Middle East both desirable and feasible.

Israel and the Arab countries were confronted with the prospect of concerted action by the great powers with the aim of defusing the conflict. This may have been one of the reasons why the Israelis resorted to such harsh measures in the Lebanon and over Sinai.

In the preliminaries President Nixon has, as in the three-cornered contest between Washington, Moscow and Peking, occupied a central position by talking with all concerned – King Hussein of Jordan, Egyptian presidential adviser Ismail and Israeli Premier Golda Meir.

The Egyptians too are trying to extend their contacts by heading for Peking as well as Washington and Moscow. Egyptian Foreign Minister Sayat will travel to China shortly, visting the Soviet Union at Moscow's invitation either beforehand or afterwards.

The Soviet Union would seem to be at a disadvantage, having concentrated on Syria and Iraq following the enforced exodus from Egypt and sent Egyptian visitors to Moscow home empty-handed.

Yet Egyptian security adviser Hafes Ismail's negotiations with the Soviet leadership might well lead to Moscow lending Cairo renewed support: not, of course, to further Egyptian war plans but in order to regain lost ground and offset Washington's obvious gain in influence.

Considerations of this kind, not to mention fear of Chinese activity in the Arab world, make it appear unlikely that Ismail has returned from Moscow empty-handed.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 February 1973)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Geoffrey Penny. Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen. Advertising Manager: Peter Boeckmann.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schöne Aussicht, Hamburg 76. Tel.: 2 20 12 56. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: Konrad Kadlubowski, 66 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn. Tel.: 22 61 53. Telex 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 10 – Annual subscription DM 25.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprint are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes a Quarterly Review and a Supplement, articles selected from German periodicals.

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■ POLITICS

SPD long-term aims will not replace Bad Godesberg Programme

The SPD is on the way to embellishing its aims with figures. Its political aims will still be taken from the Bad Godesberg Programme of 1959. The figures are included in a long-term programme, for which a draft has been in existence since June 1972, entitled "Economic-political orientation framework for the years 1973 to 1985", but which is increasingly meeting with rejections just six weeks before the national party conference in Hanover.

The draft was produced by a party commission, with sixteen members, and with the aid of numerous supplementary works drawn from the realms of politics, science and administration. A man who states that when the Bad Godesberg Programme was being drawn up he was nothing more than a "stage-hand" took over the chairmanship of the commission. He was already Federal Defence Minister.

Then he was the deputy Chairman of the SPD. He still is, but now he has become Finance Minister. He has resigned himself to not achieving binding figures for the development of the State and society over the long term.

Speaking in Munich on 25 February Helmut Schmidt said: "Even allowing a wide margin of error it is scarcely possible today to foresee what can be expected economically and how attitudes will change as much as twelve years hence with qualitative changes in the prosperity of this country and of the European Economic Community and foreign countries predominant."

He added: "The commission cannot possibly take these numerous variables into its calculations without gravely jeopardising the task it has been given."

But not only is Helmut Schmidt cuatious – he is also making erroneous calculations. He has described the draft as a document that will be put before a special study group and which the Hanover party congress in mid-April will only give a "first reading". "No other plan of action was ever foreseen for this report," he says. But the story of how the draft came about contradicts this.

In March 1968 the Nuremberg SPD party congress agreed on "perspectives for transition to the seventies", and Willy Brandt commissioned Günter Grass to write a Classical sounding foreword: "The thinking man is faced with a threefold task – to bear the burden of the past, to keep his head above water in the present and to transcend from the trials of the present to planning for the future."

In May 1970 the Saarbrücken party congress decided that these fine words should be turned into deeds. The congress called on the party executive to set up a commission that would "work out a long-term social welfare policy programme, which would concretise and qualify."

The decisive passage reads: "The draft for this programme must be produced to a deadline, so that after a thorough discussion by party organisations it can be ratified by the next party congress."

This congress was due to be held last year, but with the premature elections intervening it was postponed till April. Nevertheless the party organisations still think they have too much on their plate and are dissatisfied. The Bavarian branch of the SPD says that the draft requires amelioration and supplementation" while the Westphalian branch says that it is far from ready for approval. It is just an undercoat. A completely new start is desirable.

The draft is a book of 134 pages, with 270 numbered articles. Some of them are in ordinary typeface, others in bold, such as the clause in Article 23 which reads: "The only thing the SPD has to set up in opposition to the economic power of the few is political power as expressed by the votes of the many."

The draft plan deals with matters such as "white-collar" crime and the shortage of teachers, with flexible working hours and powers of confiscation and with capital gains; it speaks of the power of innovation of our economy and supplies statistics about the shift of population, the successes and failures of people in business and the development of the gross national product.

The heart of the matter is a change in the emphasis of public expenditure so that by 1985 government spending will be 34 per cent of the gross national product (in 1970 it was 27.9 per cent).

Particularly heavy increases are planned in spending on education and science, transport, town planning and housing. But there are to be cuts in expenditure on the expansion of the economic structure, social security, the arts, education and sport.

No change is to be made in the proportion of government expenditure in the spheres of central administration and security. Slight but unimportant increases are to be made in legal security and health.

If the party delegates agree to this material in Hanover they will be approving a project that is ten months old.

Without protest delegates have so far accepted an interim report in which points from the Saarbrücken plan were put in a relative context. The extraordinary party congress (on taxation) in November 1971 in Bonn developed into a kind of magic lantern show when Helmut Schmidt spoke about duties and prospects, and when his two right-hand men Hans Apel and Jochen Steffen spoke about non-qualifiable consequences of the Bad Godesberg Programme and on methods of making social welfare policy decisions.

"Why must we increase the proportion of GNP that goes on government spending?" Steffen asked. He gave the answer to this rhetorical question, himself. The processes of change in our society are happening at such a pace "that the shock waves could shake the future". The result of such a shock would be that people would not be capable of orientating themselves and making essential adjustments and that they might go so far as to refuse to go along with further changes. But Jochen is and always has been for change.

Helmut Schmidt confirmed: "The proportion of GNP that goes on public spending must be increased for the public good." But he added this qualification: "To programme totally and plan to perfection the things that must be achieved would, technically speaking, be a crazy adventure, for politically minded people a nightmare and above all – democratically speaking – an absurdity."

He warned against "forcing people to be happy," and suggested that instead recommendations should be made of how things could be improved.

Steffen says that on the long-term planning committee two different directions have been advocated. He considers that he is going in the better direction and says of the movements and standpoints adopted within the SPD: "Since the left is progressive the centre and right of the party withdraws into a shell."

Karsten Voigt is allied with Steffen. He is of the view that, "in the conflict with the ruling classes we are winning." The Young Socialists suspect Helmut Schmidt of wanting to calculate SPD policy to the nearest Mark and Pfennig so that the left-wing ideologists will have the carpet pulled from under them if they try to jostle for position.

Just two years ago Schmidt was refusing to discuss practical politics with the *Jusos*. Now he is admitting that "in the spectrum of delegates" at Hanover "a slight shift to the left" will be noted, but on a recent television programme he announced that "these young, intelligent people, filled with the zip of modern science" in no way represent the majority of those who voted for the SPD.

The Young Socialists plan to make the first preparations for the long-term programme at Hanover by meeting in Bonn from 9 to 11 March. Their slogan: "Socialism, because it is reasonable."

This will be reaction of the SPD leadership to the Young Socialists and the criticisms of other groupings within the party: in Hanover they will take the Orientation framework and push it through one reading, but they will not ratify it. A new commission will be set up to look at the various complaints and suggestions, check them and catalogue them. Then, if in another couple of years's time a better framework has been created it will not be to determine the course of the country's economy till 1985, but simply to put figures to policies to be pursued between 1975 and 1977.

Rudolf Strauch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 28 February 1973)

SPD leadership plans for Hanover conference

This year is blissfully free of elections, and the SPD intends to use this breathing space to start a carefully aimed campaign of recruitment, to begin publishing a members' journal and to strengthen local party groups and study groups.

The SPD leadership is taking pains to pave the way more carefully to the Hanover party congress in April (dealing with social welfare) than it did for the last such congress, the Bonn taxation conference eighteen months ago.

Holger Börner, the party's business manager, is aiming his sights mainly at young women voters and Catholic working people. Advertising for recruits is to be concentrated on thise groups which, the analyses say, voted more strongly for the SPD last November than they have done in the past.

Strengthening of the study groups and improvements to educational work in local party groups will, the SPD leadership hopes, help to integrate new members into the party. At the beginning of the year the SPD had more then 900,000 members.

Better communication between the leadership of the party and its rank and file is the aim of the members' journal *Politik* which is to be started in September with a circulation of about 50,000. Its editor-in-chief will be Wolfgang Jansen, who has for many years been the spokesman of the SPD parliamentary party.

The SPD also hopes to gain a firmer footing once again in the universities. Heinz Kuhn, North Rhine-Westphalia Premier and Science Minister Dr Rau are working on the idea of a new SPD universities federation, to which students, assistant lecturers and university tutors would belong.

The party leadership is trying to prepare the way for the next party conference at Hanover very carefully. The committee has been dealt a warning by the results of elections to borough committees, for instance in Cologne, or more particularly in Frankfurt.

In Frankfurt the new Parliamentary State Secretary to the Ministry of Education Karl Fred Zander, who was formerly regarded as an ultra-leftist, has become chairman, surrounded on the committee by ex-*Juso* leader Karsten Voigt and other comrades. The comment from the barracks in Bonn: "The Revolution is devouring its children!"

The long-term planning committee members Jochen Steffen and Rudi Arndt have made themselves unpopular at party HQ. Steffen has advised the left wing of the SPD parliamentary party, the so-called Leverkusen Group, to organise itself on a full-time basis.

But at the recent committee meeting Chancellor Brandt said angrily: "This really isn't on." Frankfurt Oberbürgermeister Rudi Arndt, who helped draw up the chapter on productive capital in the SPD long-term programme is stirring up just as much choler.

Brandt, Wehner and Schmidt will go to Hanover with their boxing gloves on. Schmidt suspects that left-wingers will misuse the "Orientation framework for 1985" as it is now known. But the Saarbrücken party conference said unequivocally that the long-term programme must be built up on the basis of the Bad Gogesberg Programme. Growth is not to be a criterion *per se*, but without growth reforms are bound to fall on stony ground, the party committee states in a strategic paper.

The party committee has thought out a long-term strategy for the congress in Hanover. It would like to pass Schmidt's Orientation framework to a committee, since it needs more thorough democratic discussion, aiming at re-introducing it at the next regular party congress in 1975.

This suggestion has already been approved by the provincial party groups in Baden-Württemberg and Hanover (Lower Saxony).

Börner, Apel and Schmidt have been sent out to Berlin, Hamburg and Munich in order to voice the ideas of the party committee to the provincial party groups there.

In Munich Helmut Schmidt must patch up the damage caused by the South Bavarian SPD's going off the rails, when its social welfare policy ideas were found to be economically unsound. This has created uncertainty in South Hesse where the bold ideas of the SPD groups have been delayed.

Another hurdle to be cleared in Hanover is presented by the accumulation of capital wealth in private hands project.

The Frankfurt Group of left-wingers seems undecided on this matter. Probably Helmut Schmidt will whip up enthusiasm among the 400 SPD delegates in Hanover for his capital accumulation plans by stressing the stabilisation levy, which he would like regarded as an entrée to private capital wealth. This fits in with the committee's plans. They would like to see part of this levy hived off for infrastructure measures.

Peter Christian Müller

(Handelsblatt, 22 February 1973)

■ THE LAW

Federal Court of Justice judges overworked

Robert Fischer, head of the Federal Court of Justice, told journalists at a recent weekend press conference that the Court faced more work in future in view of the increase in the number of disputes being submitted to it.

While over 95 per cent of penal cases had been dealt with in three months in 1972, the position was completely different where civil cases were concerned. There were still 3,500 appeal cases awaiting a verdict in 1969 and though this figure dropped to 2,438 by the end of 1972 the backlog will increase in the next few months as more are now being submitted than settled.

Fischer attributed the growth of the backlog to the ruling that all cases involving a sum of more than 25,000 Marks may be submitted to the Federal Court of Justic. Even if the lower limit were increased to forty thousand Marks the backlog would not be reduced, Fischer claimed.

The ruling is an old source of contention often looked upon as an oddity by foreign judges. Fischer described the operation of this rule as socially untenable as it was, when all is said and done, tantamount to a concession to industry.

Fischer expressed support for Minister of Justice Gerhard Jahn's plans whereby the lower court and not the amount of money involved would decide whether a case should be submitted to the Federal Court of Justice.

But no experiments should be ventured, he stated. He also opposed any possibility of plaintiffs being granted the right to lodge a complaint if their case was not submitted to the Federal Court of Justice. The Court would then be flooded with complaints, especially from disputed divorce cases, and might just as well close its doors.

Fischer also believes that the planned minimum of three years that must elapse before lodging the complaint only waters down the reform. Confidence in what judges at the Federal Court of Justice could achieve would involve a serious burden on the Court, he claimed.

That is why he also opposes plans to reduce the penal authority of lay assessor's courts from three to two years. This would lead to a flood of further appeals to the Federal Court of Justice.

Turning to the general state of affairs in the legal sector, Fischer claimed that the length of civil cases in particular was intolerable. A speedier administration of justice is of prime importance in a constitutional State.

Fischer also complained about the staff situation. The shortage of suitable candidates was a cause of great alarm, he stated. North Rhine-Westphalia alone faces a shortage of 550 judges and public prosecutors.

As junior barristers study economics and administration as well as law during their course of training, they see the shortcomings of the profession and can compare them with the drawbacks found elsewhere.

The amount of work a judge is expected to do today is far greater than in the past, Fischer claimed. No other profession in the law sector has been subject to so much public criticism. Judges are often the target of abuse or scorn in the courtroom.

Fischer also criticised the sparse furnishings and shortage of materials found in many law Offices in the Federal Republic. He attacked the state of affairs in Hamburg as an example, adding that it was not surprising that so few persons chose to enter the profession.

Hanno Kühnert
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 February 1973)

Court rules that communist teacher must be reinstated

The Neustadt Administrative Court has ruled that a single court or authority does not have the right to decide whether a party or organisation is unconstitutional. Only the Federal Constitutional Court has this power.

As long as the Federal Constitutional Court has not made a ruling to this effect, Article 21 of Basic Law states that the fact that an applicant for public office belongs to a party thought to be unconstitutional must not be taken into consideration.

The court ruled that the Federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate is obliged to employ 27-year-old Anne Lenhart, a student teacher belonging to the DKP Communist Party.

Bernhard Vogel, the Rhineland-Palatinate Education Minister, stated that he would lodge an immediate appeal. His Ministry has refused to employ Anne Lenhart since 1971.

Article 21 of Basic Law rules that parties aiming to impair or undermine the basic democratic order or jeopardise the existence of the Federal Republic are unconstitutional. The Federal Constitutional Court decides whether the party is unconstitutional or not.

At the end of last year the same court rejected a suit brought by Rolf Kosiek, a former National Democrat deputy in the Stuttgart provincial assembly, against the Federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate. Kosiek had applied for a post at Koblenz College of Education but Education Minister Vogel turned him down.

The court stated that it has not rejected the suit because the plaintiff belonged to an extremist party. The ruling in the Kosiek case was based on the fact that he had expressed his political views in an unlawful manner. He had been guilty of disturbing the peace and had taken down the flag of the German Democratic Republic in Ulm.

The verdict reached in the Lenhart case means that until the Federal Constitutional Court makes any ruling on the issue the only reasons for excluding an applicant from public service are those of lacking capability.

Anne Lenhart's political views have not involved her in any illegal activities, justifying the belief that applicants for public office will fulfil the political obligations incumbent upon them under the civil service laws.

Karl-Heinz Baum
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 February 1973)

Judges mock dress regulations

Judges no longer pay overdue attention to the detailed regulations on their dress within the courtroom. The recent gown ruling in Schleswig-Holstein even caused amusement at the headquarters of the Judges Association in Düsseldorf.

Judge Arndt, himself from Kiel, added to the general mirth by poking fun at the new regulations. As perfect as they may appear, he stated, he had found a loophole in them.

While they prescribe that the sleeves of the gown must be open, they do not state that the gown as a whole must be open at the bottom. "The legislature must clarify this point," he demanded. After all, the gown regulation specialists in Kiel had thought of just about everything else.

The gown regulations read: "The cloak of office lies smoothly on the shoulders and chest. It is closed in the front by a number of concealed buttons or hooks. In the front and at the back it falls in folds to over halfway down the calf. Collar and cravat must be exposed and coat and waistcoat concealed. The sleeves, widening as they reach the end, which are open and hang down in folds. To ease the task of writing, judges may close the right sleeve around the wrist by means of a button fixed inside."

Continuing the description of the

Continued on page 5

Mahler sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment

Horst Mahler, a 37-year-old lawyer, sentenced to twelve years' imprison on 26 February after being found of belonging to a criminal associatio the Baader-Meinhof group — and planning and taking part in a serie bank robberies.

No one doubted the fact that Ho Mahler would have to spend next few years in prison even before Berlin court reached its verdict. Ma himself had demonstated he wa member of a criminal organisa through his often insulting though frequently naive statements to the co He was therefore certain of a five sentence, the maximum for this offe

The second main point of prosec — his alleged involvement in three b robberies in Berlin — was less clear. evidence available suggested that were probably committed by membe the Baader-Mainhof group.

Mahler was considered a ringlead this group — he confirmed this susp during his trial. It was ther justifiable to claim that he had some to do with the bank robberies.

The only question now is whether evidence is sufficient to sentence M to a total twelve years' imprisonment his part in the robberies. The ve leaves some room for doubt in respect.

Under a liberal system of justi defendant must be proved one hun per cent guilty of a crime before b sentenced, however horrible the c may be.

But the evidence submitted to court in the Mahler case was incon unless the testimony of the dis witness Ruhland is to be depended The judges reached a verdict accord their own personal conviction th Mahler was guilty.

It is therefore only desiderable t firm, incontestable verdict is reac the event of an appeal. Preserving system of justice must remain the aim of courts even when they are s and insulted by defendants.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 Februar

Study of damages awarded throws up anomalies

Everyone is equal before the law, it is often claimed, but that is not true when the question of damages is raised. Young women can expect to receive more money than the elderly. Social values thus invade a sector as personal as pain and injury.

Under the civil code any person injured through another's fault can claim damages as well as compensation for the costs of hospitalisation, medical treatment and loss of wages.

But the law does not mention the amount of damages to be paid. No fixed rate of payment exists. Judges must decide on the merits of each particular case what sum is appropriate.

Social status plays a major role in verdicts however, as a book recently published by Susanne Hacks reveals. In the book she discusses 612 verdicts from the recent past.

She demonstrates that a society which holds youth in greater esteem than old age will award a twenty-year-old higher damages than a elderly lady even when the extent and type of injury is the same.

A Berlin court recently ruled that damages awarded to a 58-year-old woman had been kept relatively low as her age meant that the "injuries incurred would probably only impair a negligible part of her life".

Considering the case of a 56-year-old housewife who was left with an unsightly disfigurement after breaking her shoulder-blade, the Provincial Court in Celle ruled: "As an elderly lady the plaintiff need not feel herself hindered from wearing decollete evening dresses."

In comparison a 26-year-old woman with scars on her thigh was recognised to have "a considerable cosmetic defect for a young lady".

But the rulings compiled by Susanne Hacks also include one that is an exception to the general rule. The Provincial Court in Munich ruled in a case brought by a 61-year-old woman that damages should not be kept low simply because the plaintiff was 61. "The injuries affect her life as much as if she were young," the judge stated.

Lawyers have described the varying criteria applied in awarding damages as a sad commentary on the application of the civil code. They believe that the sums paid are too low.

But improvements have been noted in recent years. Susanne Hacks writes: "This is illustrated by damages awarded for the loss of sight in one eye. Whereas three to four thousand Marks was considered adequate in 1959, sums of this magnitude would no longer be judged acceptable today. At present only a five figure sum can be seen as sufficient compensation."

But she pleads for higher damages awarded: "Why are damages calculated in such a way that a pe with an amputated limb who once pl sport is given the opportunity of vis one or two top-class sporting even year? Why shouldn't a theatre-goer be able to travel to special performa or a chess-player to a world champ ship? " But up to now it has only bee the Anglo-Saxon countries that dam could be awarded along these lines.

Damages are limited at present to hundred thousand Marks. Objection increasing this figure usually cent the higher insurance premiums this w entail, especially where motor insurance is concerned.

But even if this the case, Susanne Ha writes, this is hardly a reason for increasing the amount of damages may be awarded. Compensating ped for injuries they receive in accidents social necessity, she claims.

Damages have also been awarded infants. The Provincial Court in Nu berg awarded damages to a slightly jured baby seven days old stating babies too were capable of feeling

Studying the rulings, the reader also find verdicts that have an benevolent appearance. A schoolbo awarded damages of five hundred as he was unable to enjoy his holidays because his foot was in after an injury he had sustained.

Ute-Brigitta Fromm
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 17 February 19

■ GOVERNMENT

Genscher fights to prune bureaucracy

Bonn's bureaucracy has been much praised and much maligned. Some people look upon it as a wonder of perfection while others consider it a monstrosity addicted to increasing the amount off paper, files and computers to put it into a position to fight "paper battles". They claim that it has a tendency to expand its plans with no further end in sight than to be able to increase staff.

But is has now turned to an old issue that Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher planned to deal with when he was first appointed to the post in 1969.

The number of committees and advisory bodies has indeed been cut from 317 to 264 but bureaucracy dies hard. Few persons would emulate Professor Grzimek who voluntarily resigned his post as government nature conservation commissioner.

This is the centre of the problem – the committees, working parties, commissions and advisory bodies that the various ministries appoint during the course of time and which flourish outside the public gaze though without doing anything useful.

There is for example the Economic Affairs Ministry's Poplar Commission which was appointed again last summer. It has existed a number of years despite the fact that the poplar is not a very important tree in the Federal Republic, as the Ministry itself admits. But the government had to enter the United Nations' Poplar Commission as it is part of the development aid programme and the Economic Ministry was allowed to keep its commission.

Genscher planned to prune this vast army of advisers and amend the regulations. He set the ministries a time limit which expired on 1 February.

To cut a long story short, Ministers Gerhard Jahn, Helmut Schmidt, Hans Friderichs, Josef Ertl, Walter Arendt and Klaus Dohnanyi objected to the dissolution of working parties and advisory bodies.

There still seems to be an impression that the 264 advisory bodies still in existence with their almost five thousand "advisers" (and an annual budget of almost four million Marks) form an expertocracy taking work off the shoulders of the politician, that is the Bundestag. The technocrats, the men of action, have taken away their power.

Genscher fed information into his computer and a series of remarkable facts and statistics were spat out. Only 123 women were to be found among these five thousand advisers.

The most sought-after adviser is banker Hermann Josef Abs who sits on five committees – the advisory board for town and country planning, the foreign trade advisory board, the aviation board, the atom commission and the advisory board for development aid policy.

Last year 46 committees were dissolved or died a natural death. They include an advisory board for issues affecting the older generation, a tuberculosis statistics working party, a commission to deal with the problems of house-building in a free economy, the commission for the simplification of the accommodation subsidy law and the refugee statistics specialist committee.

But there are still a number of committees which seem to have no rational purpose. What is the point of a working committee for the compilation of a catalogue of recognised definitions of market economy terms or the working party for the distribution channels of agricultural products of the catalogue commission for trade and market economy research?

For questions involving wine there are the Federal Committee for Viticultural Research, an advisory board for the

Hannoversche Allgemeine

calculation of the production costs of wine, a specialist committee for wine and spirits, a committee for examining the wine laws and a commission for the amendment of official instructions on the examination of wine. Laymen and experts alike will be astonished.

It is anybody's guess what an Elevator Committee and the Freeboard, Container, Liquid Cargoes, Gas Tanker and Reactor Ships Specialist Committees are supposed to achieve. But the confusion of committees and specialist bodies within the ministries safeguards their further existence.

The bureaucracy's self-preservation measures seem to have reached a state of perfection. Not even the usually so rational Hans-Dietrich Genscher can find ways of preventing the worst excesses of the system and its tendency to impose its rule on all it can.

Walter Henkels
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 February 1973)

Obstacles still beset Federal states reform

Since 1949 Basic Law has called for a reorganisation of the Federal state structure which takes into account ethnic, historical, cultural, economic and social factors. But nothing has come of it apart from the formation of the Federal state of Baden-Württemberg from a number of smaller entities.

There has been no shortage of practical suggestions but they have never been put into effect because of the diverging interests of the political parties and local politicians. The proposals the Ernst Commission recently submitted to he Chancellor will probably meet with the same fate.

Professor Werner Ernst and his colleagues on the commission devoted two years and a good deal of energy to drawing up a 267-page report proposing a reduction in the number of Federal states from ten (excluding Berlin) to five or six.

But it can already be taken for certain that the two proposed solutions for North Germany – the fusion of the present four Federal states into one entity or the formation of a North-East and a North-West Federal state – will not see the light of day in the foreseeable future.

The SPD/FDP coalition in Bonn has promised the city-states of Hamburg and Bremen its full support in the fight for the maintenance of their local autonomy. But if these two cities retain their Federal state status, all proposals for a reorganisation of the present system in the north will have lost their purpose.

The Free Democrats recommend that the reform should begin in the south. Here too the Ernst Commission has issued two sets of proposals. Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate, the Saar and the Mannheim and Heidelberg areas of Baden-Wurttemberg could be merged into one Federal state or else the new Federal state could consist of Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate without the Palatinate and the area around Worms which would then be attached along with the Saar to the current Fedeal state of Baden-Württemberg. But opinions differ even within the same party.

Local political interests play a role here of course but an even more important element in the background is the consideration of the future composition of the Bundesrat, or Upper House.

However, on receiving the Ernst Commission report, both Chancellor Willy Brandt and Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher stated that the proposals would not involve far-reaching changes in the political set-up.

As the ensuing discussions are expected to be long and tedious, Genscher has pointed out that the Bundestag will soon appoint a second commission of inquiry into constitutional reform. There is indeed a close link between this body and the Ernst Commission.

But as the commission of inquiry is bound to need a few years before putting forward concrete proposals for the future federalistic structure of the Federal Republic, the question of reorganisation is not all that relevant at present.

Bernt Conrad
(Die Welt, 21 February 1973)

Weekly Cabinet statement asked for

It was recently proposed during a debate in the Bundestag that the government should issue a weekly statement to the House about the outcome of Cabinet discussions. The Bundestag Council of Elders recently met government representatives to discuss the issue.

A trial scheme will be introduced after the Easter recess and continue through the summer session. The government statement will be issued at two o'clock every Wednesday afternoon after the Cabinet meeting is over.

Demands to this effect have been raised in the Bundestag for the past 23 years but the decision to go ahead with a scheme of this type was not taken until Herbert Wehner, the head of the Social Democrat group in the Bundestag, met his Free Democrat colleague Wolfgang Mischnick to discuss the proposal.

According to plans as they are at the moment, a member of the government (a Minister or a Parliamentary State Secretary) will make a report on a particular point discussed by the Cabinet.

Members of the Bundestag will then be allowed to ask him questions though they must not deviate from the subject at hand. Information will be restricted to half an hour to guard against the danger of the meeting growing into a full-scale debate. The press will be informed half an hour after the Bundestag.

This meeting will only become a permanent feature in the Bundestag if the trial scheme proves successful by the summer recess.

Hans Lerchbacher
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 22 February 1973)

Continued from page 4

Judges' robes, the regulations state: "The border lies smoothly around the collar and at the front, running down to the lower hem of the cloak. It is sixteen centimetres wide at the neck, tapering in front to eleven centimetres or less. In the sleeves the border is eight centimetres wide."

Judges and public prosecutors have borders of silk, registrars borders of wool.

It was only a few months ago that a law was passed abolishing the various titles for the head of a court and establishing the generally valid designation "judge". The gown regulation threatens to be just as controversial, leading Judge Arndt to ask the Federal state of Schleswig-Holstein to make its ruling more flexible.

Hans Willenweber
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 16 February 1973)

Lobbyists flood registration lists

Bundestag proposals to control the influence of lobbyists on the legislative machinery have encountered unforeseen difficulties — over five hundred applications for inclusion on the lobbyist lists have already been received.

When number 47 was reached, the responsible official in the presidial department suspended issuing these sought-after registration numbers and asked the Bundestag executive for new instructions.

Officials fear that the aim of the new regulations will not be achieved in view of the large number of applications. A spokesman has stated that the Bundestag executive will soon turn to this serious problem.

The flood of applications from interest groups can be understood. Only registered lobbyists stand any chance of obtaining a Bundestag pass guaranteeing access to the building, and the rooms of the deputies, at any time.

Only those interest groups registered on the list to be published annually in the Bundesanzeiger will have the right to put forward their point of view at public hearings organised by the Bundestag.

Written statements are sometimes requested from interest groups as well and any body that did not register would find itself excluded.

The purpose behind the interest group of taxpayers, number one on the lobbyist lists, is evident but things become more complicated when applications are received from the Pedestrian League, the Rum Union or bodies representing bone utilisers, insemination specialists or canary breeders.

Churches, trade unions, chambers or industry and trade as well as orders of nuns, a judges association and the blanket-manufacturers association have all asked whether they are eligible for registration.

The Trades Union Confederation (DGB) has turned its Bonn branch to a parliamentary liaison office. Heinz Oskar Vetter, head of the DGB, has outlined the role of a good lobbyist: "He cannot issue statements on television or in full public gaze but his actions must be plain for all to see. The trade unions wish to make a full contribution towards this." Some 250 members of the new Bundestag are members of a trade union affiliated to the DGB.

The longer the lobbyist lists become — and eight hundred applications are now expected — the less effective will be attempts to curb the influence of interest groups on the Bundestag.

The Bundestag executive official responsible for this question has therefore suggested excluding any bodies or associations that do not work on a nationwide basis. But large firms could be entered on the lobbyist lists.

Whatever the case, registration must not be mentioned when writing to members of the Bundestag. Nobody is allowed to describe himself as a "State-approved lobbyist".

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 23 February 1973)

■ CONSUMER PROTECTION

Consumers are no longer prepared to remain silent

Thanks to the efforts of the Bonn government and the cooperation of the mass-media much more is being done for the protection of the consumer in the Federal Republic than in the United States. Although the word "consumerism" which is becoming fashionable in this country originates in America it tends to mean little more there than pure public relations for certain products.

But this is precisely what the work of Federal Republic consumer organisations should not be. It is their task to inform the consumer and thereby protect him.

In an interview with *Handelsblatt* the business affairs manager of the study group of consumer associations (AGV) Johannes M. Jaschick stressed that the work of informing consumers must begin while they are still at school.

Herr Jaschick who is also a member of the administrative board of the consumer magazine *Test* which is published by the Warentest Foundation, regretted that consumers often take a very passive attitude to the protection that is offered them.

He said: "This is the trouble. The number of subscribers to *Test* is increasing all the time, but we find it alarming that we are still not reaching the broad cross-section of the public we would like. In our experience it is people with lower incomes who are failing to take advantage of our tests, precisely because the groundwork has not been carried out during their schooldays. These are of course the people who require consumer protection more than any others and they are not benefitting from our work."

Jaschick said that in our society the consumer is the weaker partner in every deal. This has a historical basis, and from the earliest days of the producer-consumer society it has been a seller's market. Thus the AGV is out to draw up laws that help the consumer and to create conditions of competitiveness that are beneficial to the consumer.

Herr Jaschick mentioned some of the short-term aims of the AGV. For example, better protection against the normal conditions of business — that is to say all the small print tucked away in the corners of a sales slip. This includes the proud guarantee claims that seem to be printed in gold letters, but which should really be printed in a signal red colour or black for mourning. For many guarantees are nothing more than a guarantee of what repairs will not be carried out free of charge should anything go wrong, in other words a protection for the manufacturer and a curse for the consumer.

The civil code gives a consumer certain rights when he buys an item — guarantees set out to limit these rights. Work is already in progress to do something about this. The Bonn Justice Ministry has set up a working group to plough up this jungle of conditions of sale. The AGV is represented on this panel by its legal experts.

In addition a study group has been formed within the consumer advisory board at the Ministry for Economic Affairs. The AGV is also weighing up the possibility of ensuring that the consumer associations are given active rights in line with the amendment to the law against unfair competition at present being discussed, so that they can go into action against dubious business practices.

But the government has not made any firm decision along these lines yet. Meanwhile the two study groups mentioned above are probing all the possibilities arising.

Jaschick is decidedly opposed to any attempts to push the job of consumer protection on to some higher authority. He said emphatically: "We would not be in favour of this because it would mean creating a special bureaucratic machine for the protection and enlightenment of the consumer, which goes against the concept of social welfare policy. We believe that the self-help services for the consumer are more efficient than any bureaucratic institution could be."

Asked what progress he felt could be made in the near future Herr Jaschick pointed to the consumer report of the Bonn government, which should help to remove some of the obstacles to a clear view of the price situation.

An initial price survey came up with some devastating condemnations of our pricing systems. In one shop in Cologne a colour television set was selling at 500 Marks more than in another. A computerised flashgun was 120 per cent dearer in one camera shop than in a rival. The Economic Affairs Ministry is boosting the idea of such pricing comparisons for precisely this reason.

Johannes Jaschick complained that the display of prices on items in shops was not good enough. In mid-April an amendment to the regulations regarding the manner in which prices must be displayed comes into force. Jaschick hopes this will work to the benefit of the shopper. AGV researches have revealed that the main offenders in this respect are florists.

The most important short-term aim, the AGV feels, is the introduction of better education in schools for tomorrow's consumers. The main excuse for the lack of this is the shortage of qualified teachers, but the AGV has already got its answer ready — a consumer academy in Berlin, which would be an international centre of education and research.

The consumer academy would be for the use of educationalists and for journalists who are becoming more and more interested in consumer affairs.

Jaschick also mentioned the Bill for the prevention of limitation of competitiveness which is due for debate in the Bundestag again. The AGV is behind this Bill. But the AGV is in favour of smaller and medium-sized concerns being given every opportunity to embark on cooperation and would welcome the abolition of the privilege of price maintenance. This, they say, would have to be in conjunction with a ban on recommended retail prices which are a source of many abuses.

The overhaul of foodstuffs laws, which is also before the Bundestag, would, the AGV head believes, develop into a kind of Basic Law for the consumer, if it is passed.

Asked his opinion on the many splinter consumer organisations Herr Jaschick said: "It is true that in the past a number of consumer groups sprang up quite rapidly, giving the impression that there was a dearth of information dissemination and a surfeit of organisations. But now these organisations have forged links and organised cooperation, which, we feel, will go a long way towards purposeful working. The AGV acts as the umbrella organisation."

The AGV's funds come from the government. Last year their allocation was something over 600,000 Marks. This was divided up into certain sums for certain projects. The Economic Affairs Ministry paid for various campaigns and publications, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for instruction to the general public on agricultural policies and the Health Ministry for the brochure "Eat modern — eat healthy".

The budget will decide how much the AGV gets this year. But Warentest Foundation is assured of six million Marks.

Herr Jaschick said that the public's reaction to consumer protection has grown greatly, with the more highly educated taking a livelier interest. Townsfolk are more concerned about such matters than countryfolk.

There is also a generation gap. Older shoppers still think that by paying a higher price they will automatically obtain higher quality. And AGV researches say that older consumers do not walk out of a shop empty-handed as readily as the younger generation, but if they failed to find what they want — they are more likely to make do with second-best.

The AGV regrets very much that shopkeepers are known to use to entice older customers. One of the worst is the trick of making sales over a cup of coffee. This appeals largely to the older generation, and it is often used as a method of unloading unsaleable goods at inflated prices.

As far as industry is concerned Herr Jaschick is of the opinion that manufacturers are at last beginning to wake up to the needs and wishes of the consumer with regard to quality, after-sales service and pricing.

He said that the AGV's aims was to create a situation in industry, commerce and trade which is "kind to the consumer". In his turn the consumer's eyes must be opened to the ways and wiles of the market.

Nevertheless Herr Jaschick hopes that consumer awareness will not go too far. He does not want to kill off the lady who goes to a draper's and buys a sweater not because it is "easy-care, pre-shrunk, 55% this and 45 % that", but simply because it is nice!

Katharina Olb[illegible]

(Handelsblatt, 23 February 1973)

A consumers' association in operation

Hey, listen. I bought a couple of crates of beer at the supermarket, but there's sediment on the bottom of the bottles. What can I do about it?" the young bank clerk asked the lady at the reception desk at Hamburg's Consumer HQ.

She sent the angry man to the HQ's superviser Mechthild von Hobe, who advised him to demand his money back and to send a sample of the beer to the Food Hygiene Institute for analysis. It was worth it. The beer was replaced.

As elsewhere in the Federal Republic people in Hamburg are in ever increasing numbers becoming critical consumers who seek advice from consumer associations. The consumer was once considered a sleeping giant, but now he is starting to wake up.

Last year 31,518 people from Hamburg visited the Consumer HQ and 70,526 people asked for advice by telephone. The HQ had to answer 371 complaining letters as well. As in all consumer centres in the Federal Republic advice is given free. There are eleven such centres scattered about the country. The one in Hamburg has eight full-time female staff helping consumers.

The HQ's budget for this year is 299,000 Marks. Twenty-three organisations belong to the Consumer Association — mostly women's clubs, but also unions. But they are tending to provide and less of the funds. Bonn now supplies half the finances and slightly less than half is provided by the Hamburg city-state authorities.

Still the Consumer Association's financial situation looks far from rosy, with costs rising and investment decreasing. This year seventy per cent of the budget will go towards paying staff. Rent will swallow a further 41,000 Marks.

The number of people visiting the HQ is rising and the number of telephone callers last year leapt up amazingly. More and more people in Hamburg are taking advantage of the "automatic telephone tip" at weekends.

Suscribers dial 34 25 06 and hear a three-minute tape with interesting information such as "mushroom collectors beware! How to recognise toadstools" and interesting facts about items in the shops: "Chinese cabbage, also known as Peking cabbage, is eaten as much in China as ordinary cabbage is in this country. It is much more tender . . ."

Apart from that the telephone advisory service generally restricts itself to making appointments. Each day about 200 people seeking advice by phone have to be disappointed because of lack of staff, according to Association Chairman Irma Keilhack. It is not always easy to give advice by phone anyway. It is not very often that a madman rings up or someone calls as a hoax, but the Consumer Association does get some very strange people at the other end of the line. Recently a man rang up and said: "I'm in a mess. My pea soup has boiled dry and burnt the saucepan. What can I do now? They will throw me out of the house when I tell them. Is there anything I can put in the saucepan to make the burnt mass into soup again?"

At the Hamburg Consumer HQ the advice is always given by qualified experts. The business is organised by a women who is trained in agricultural studies. There are three domestic budgeting experts and three women trained in the ways of energy supply. The other two are a lawyer and interior designer, both of whom work part-time. In the claims department the staff consists of a retired judge and an economist. Five elderly women are employed to carry out the more routine jobs that crop up.

The advisory service is divided up into sections: electrical and gas equipment, housing, claims and complaints, nutrition, young marriages budgeting and [illegible].

Hamburg's consumer champions have more space availadle at their headquarters than any other comparable body in the Federal Republic. They have a lecture and exhibition hall, a model kitchen, and a department for household utensils which give the consumer a really good chance to compare the various goods on offer. This is important because the number of goods on sale and no-holds-barred advertising tend to confuse the consumer more and more each day.

Most of the enquiries that come in have to do with electrical equipment and without the researches of the [illegible] "Warentest" Foundation it would be impossible to deal with them. Concentrated swotting up is carried out at the [illegible]

Continued on page 7

■ INDUSTRY

Thyssen Group to obtain control of Rheinstahl

The puzzling goings-on surrounding Thyssen and Rheinstahl, which led among things to the suspension of the stock-market quote for Rheinstahl shares have now been cleared up by both parties involved. Each has issued a statement, both being identical from the point of view of content, and stating that the August Thyssen Hütte AG, Duisburg-Hamborn intends to acquire a simple majority of the 470 million Mark share capital of Rheinstahl AG.

For this purpose a banking consortium headed by the Dresdner Bank and Deutsche Bank has been given the task of offering a cash payment of 125 Marks for every 100-Mark share to the more than 120,000 Rheinstahl shareholders. To get the participation it wants Thyssen, it is estimated, must pay out something in the region of 300 million Marks.

This transaction would create a new Federal Republic industrial giant with the same format as the two biggest concerns in this country so far, Siemens and Volkswagenwerk.

The steel giants

World steel production in 1972

628 million tons

USA 121 · USSR 126 · Enlarged EEC 139 · Japan 97 · China 23

Of which: FRG 44 · Britain 25 · France 24 · Italy 20 · Belgium 15 · Remainder 11

G 871

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Dr Hans-Günther Sohl, the head of Thyssen, who is giving up his post in April this year for reasons of age will leave his successor Dr Dieter Spethmann an empire with 160,000 or so employees and turnover in the region of seventeen milliard Marks, and easily the biggest steel concern in Europe.

Although there is no talk of it at present Rheinstahl will certainly be built up giving Thyssen, previously a purely steel concern an interest in the manufacturing and trading side. This will give Thysson the structural completeness and rounding-off of its production programme which it has been seeking to achieve for years.

Emphasis will still in the main be on steel production. In the past this concentration on the production side has made Thyssen particularly susceptible to economic recessions.

With the acquisition of the wide-ranging manufacturing and trading interests of Rheinstahl the Thyssen Group can substantially expand its sphere of business and thus provide itself with a bulwark against hard times.

The original idea, we have since been informed, was simply to cooperate in the sphere of steel production. Rheinstahl has its own foundry in Hattingen and a substantial participation in the Edelstahlwerk Witten AG, whose production programme would have been a good complement to the Thyssen Group's Deutsche Edelstahlwerke AG.

But before long there was general recognition that cooperation in other spheres would be possible and desirable with a view to cutting costs.

At Thyssen Haus no one is yet able to say what the forms and limitations of the cooperation with Rheinstahl will be in any detail. More detailed information is due to be given at a press conference. But the Thyssen board is obviously weighing up the possibility of making the link-up something more than a simple 1 + 1 addition.

It will presumably take several years for the companies to complete all the aspects of the link-up, but at the end of that time there should be a completely new and rational industrial group in operation. There is no denying that there are weaknesses in Rheinstahl, but it is hoped that the mutual alliance and planned close cooperation in buying, production and sales will go a long way towards overcoming these shortfalls, even if in certain cases this means that an amputation will be necessary.

But at Thyssen it is emphasised by all concerned that Rheinstahl will not be "killed off".

It is still an open question whether Thyssen foundries as the future majority shareholder in Rheinstahl can expect a "dowry" from its new marital partner.

In the recently published Rheinstahl circular to shareholders with the first figures for the 1972 business year the board of the Essen-based concern has had to admit that despite actions taken last year to cut costs the company still did not succeed in achieving an overall satisfactory trading balance for the year.

According to the report there is no immediate prospect of the company's resuming dividend payments. Rheinstahl shareholders did not receive a dividend in 1971. In 1970 and 1969 the dividends were five and six per cent respectively, after two years in which no dividend had been paid.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 February 1973)

Continued from page 7

counter in the hallway of the Consumer HQ where fifteen copies of the consumer protection magazine *test* are available. There is hasty noting, clipping, copying, and the like.

One in three people who come to the Hamburg HQ has a claim or a complaint to make. The claims bureau does not regard itself as a glorified lawyer's office and it does not give the consumer only legal advice. It rings the laundry and takes up the complaint about how they failed to remove those stains from the pullover. It investigates companies that have completed dubious contracts, in order to invalidate the contract. Last year the department handled claims worth in all 300,000 Marks.

Thea Pfeiffer, who heads the young-marrieds and household budgeting department often has to provide a shoulder to cry on methaphorically spesking. She finds that having de-fused the problems of household budgeting she often takes the [illegible]ing out of marital conflicts as a whole. She says that on a number of occasions people have como to ask for advice, walked into the office, sat down in the chair and burst into tears.

The Hamburg Consumer HQ has its house magazine. *Die Verbrauchersicht*. This attempts to keep consumers up to date with new consumer policies and legislation that affects consumers. It has so far been published three times a year with a circulation of 4,000. High costs have meant that it can only be distributed via the member organisations or directly to visitors to the HQ. Mechthild von Hobe: "Of course it cannot contain up-to-the-minute consumer information."

Apart from all the work on the magazine and advisory jobs a great deal of effort and money is put into posters, leaflets, press releases and particularly exhibitions. It took ten weeks to prepare the latest exhibition "Traps, traps everywhere". The exhibition warns consumers by example of the foul practices of "credit sharks", door-to-door salesman and others out to make an easy buck.

Every Thursday the Consumer HQ sends thirteen "price ladies" into town. They visit supermarkets, self-service stores and other shops noting down the price for meat, fish, vegetables and fruit. In this way HQ can provide a weekend price survey by phone for housewives who care about such things.

At the Consumer HQ the staff proudly point to the nationwide reaction to many of the campaigns they have set in motion. In 1970 they issued a leaflet "What must I take into consideration when I open a bank account?" This kicked up dust in Bonn and even led to a question in the House about fees charged by finance houses and how the man-in-the-street can be protected against excesses. The leaflet pilloried "credit sharks" and Dortmund's crime squad found it so interesting it arranged for a 75,000 re-print.

Amid the pride at successes and joy at the increasing use being made of the Consumer Association there are certain worries. There is no money for an amplification system in the lecture hall, nor for adequate advertising. And there is the ever-present lack of staff. The Association needs a trained telephone adviser, and as Mechthild von Hobe said: "We need a man's firm hand around the place, too."

Men who have so far applied have always taken to their heels when they heard what the salary was. It is determined by the national white-collar workers' salary scale and cannot be raised, And the job offers little in the way of possible advancement and promotion.

The Association has learnt through its work that measures to protect the consumer rarely penetrate to those who most need protection, the less well educated. A better education means greater interest, Mechthild von Hobe complained. But the normal consumer, whose average pay per month last year was 1,055 Marks is still largely disinterested, ill-informed and uncritical.

Ronald Granz

(Die Zeit, 23 February 1973)

The boom begins

Total orders · Orders from overseas

Orders placed with industry in 1972 compared with the previous year in percentages

1st quarter: 14.2 · 11

2nd quarter: 15.1 · 3.5

3rd quarter: 15.6 · 9.4

4th quarter: 17.7 · 35.8

G 884

Furniture giants link up

Hannoversche Allgemeine

What is sauce for industry is sauce for commerce. Formation of large concerns leads to the formation of large commercial companies. In other words the process of merging and concentration is under way in commerce as well.

It may not be so spectacular as in industry and it takes a different form. But that does not alter the fact that the purchasing power of the retail trade is increasing all the time, largely owing to the expansive development of retail cooperatives and other retail companies.

The latest example is the cooperation embarked on by Musterring and Europa-Möbel, two furniture companies. Though Musterring is not a retail company in the usual sense it is one of the biggest brand names in furniture. All in all, and with some reservations the turnover of the two companies is estimated at something like 2,500 to 2,700 million Marks.

The total size of the furniture market in this country is ten milliard Marks so the new pairing represents about 25 per cent. Herr Horbach, the President of Europa-Möbel, however, does not agree with these figures. He stresses that his sole concern is to protect the medium-sized commercial and industrial concerns in the furniture business. Small and medium-sized manufacturing concerns are threatened and it is these that the sales side wishes to help with its mergers.

According to Herr Horbach and the Prognos market research institute in Basle the first "milliardaire" with over a thousand million Marks turnover in the furniture business should be in existence by 1980. Only seventeen firms of this kind would be necessary to cover the total requirements of furniture in 1980. At the moment there are 1,500 firms with 1,800 outlets.

This sounds menacing, but calculations of this kind must be accepted only with caution. Finally the furniture business is all out to make furniture more fashionable. But large production centres are only suitable for turning out mass-produced furniture. One cannot avoid the impression that furniture companies are seeking to excuse their process of concentration through mergers, a phrase that makes representatives of the industry wince.

Manufacturing companies are getting bigger as a sign of the times, and in time the largest commercial concerns will find the monopolies commission paying them as much attention as producers already receive. Then no alibi will wash.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 9 February 1973)

■ TRANSPORT

Hovertrain pilot project for Heidelberg

DIE WELT

Heidelberg is to be one of the first cities in the Federal Republic to inaugurate a hovertrain service as part of its local transport facilities. A two-kilometre stretch of hovertrack is to be taken into service in two years' time.

Planners hope Heidelberg will achieve, with the aid of this new service, the ambition of local authorities everywhere: the combination of decongested traffic and an environmentally sound city centre.

The hovertrain will be the Krauss-Maffei design that has already reached speeds of 164 kilometres an hour (100 mph) on the 1,000-metre experimental track on which the electromagnetic principle has undergone practical trials.

The operational speed in Heidelberg will be somewhat less dramatic, though, and the twelve-seater carriages, either singly or in train-sized groups as required, will establish a swift link between Karlstor and Bismarckplatz.

The track can be built on, above or under ground. Heidelberg's Oberbürgermeister Reinhold Zundel would prefer an underground system, partly because the city has already decided to make its main shopping street a pedestrian precinct.

Before this change is effected the area will in any case be the scene of substantial roadworks, both the sewage system and the gas mains being badly in need of repair.

Heidelberg hopes that by excavating a slightly larger tunnel it will be able to combine both new drains and gas pipes and its new, miniature underground railway.

Other cities' requirements are not dissimilar. In Stuttgart a number of city councillors have already advocated calling work on the city's projected conventional underground to a halt and switching over to newer modes of transport such as the hovertrain.

Stuttgart is not alone in this respect. Other cities, smaller ones too, are casting envious glances at the plans of the city that aims at modernising a reputation based largely on the operetta *The Student Prince*.

Heidelberg is certainly to start the ball rolling. The city's planners learnt of Krauss-Maffei's experiments a year ago. Oberbürgermeister Zundel entered into negotiations with the Federal Transport Ministry.

The outcome of his talks, kept secret for a year, has now been made public by Ernst Haar, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Transport in Bonn and Social Democratic MP for Stuttgart, the capital of Baden-Württemberg.

The Federal government and the city council of Heidelberg have agreed to cooperate on a hovertrain pilot project based on the Krauss-Maffei system as an experiment in public transport.

Detailed study of local difficulties remains to be conducted and another six months will elapse before preliminary work is concluded, Zundel says, but it has been decided to reveal details of the project in advance.

Spokesmen for the Federal Transport Ministry, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Krauss-Maffei, the Munich manufacturers, divulged details at Heidelberg's city hall.

Always assuming that the preliminary study commissioned and financed by the Federal government gives Heidelberg the go-ahead, the first underground section will be two kilometres (a mile and a half) long and include six fully automated stops.

The second section will link Bismarckplatz with the main railway station, a further two kilometres away.

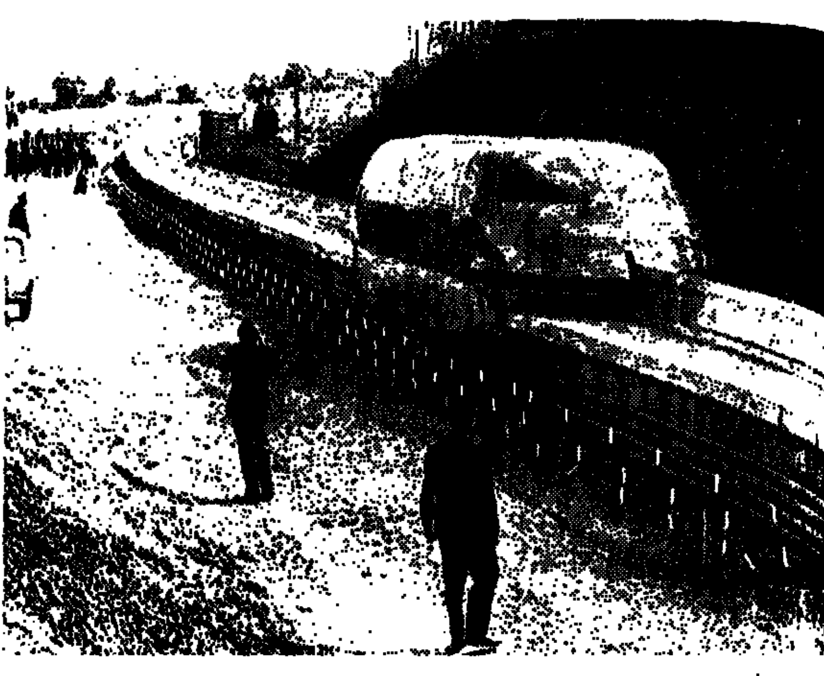
According to cautious estimates the construction costs will amount to at least forty million Marks. Running costs will, however, be low, the hover principle requiring neither moving parts subject to wear and tear nor driver or conductor.

According to the manufacturers the cost per passenger kilometre will, once the hoverrail is operational, amount to a mere two and a half pfennigs.

A Krauss-Maffei director was unwilling to answer specific queries concerning the prospects of the project being carried out in Heidelberg. "We do not yet know how things look down below," he commented, referring to conceivable difficulties with the labyrinth of old cellars and sewage facilities underneath the main street.

Walter Pfuhl

(Die Welt, 21 February 1973)



Krauss-Maffei pilot hovertrain (Photo: ...)

Underground in Hamburg to dispense with drivers

In a few years time underground trains in Hamburg will be both automatic and driverless. Prior to full-scale automation the public transport authority has placed an order for 750 telephones, one for each of the 750 Underground carriages in which passengers will soon be on their own.

Hamburg has been experimenting with fully automatic Underground transport since 1967, when two experimental trains, equipped by AEG and Siemens, were inaugurated on a trial section of the city's tube network. Following initial trials without passengers the automatic trains were incorporated in regular services.

Line wires are what make the system tick. They are unassuming wires lining the track and coated in black insulating material.

They convey electrical impulses to the passing trains, issuing electronic commands to start, accelerate, brake and stop. As yet the driver remains at his controls merely for safety's sake.

The years of trials have now been evaluated and project engineers are satisfied that automation has proved a practicable proposition.

"For cost reasons we cannot afford to conduct one experiment after another," says Dr Hans Tappert, head of the public transport authority. He is hoping that the Ministry of Scientific Research in Bonn will come up trumps and provide financial assistance.

Hamburg is, when all is said and done, working on new techniques that will later benefit public transport authorities elsewhere. Consultancy agreements have been concluded with Amsterdam and Helsinki, for instance, both cities planning to build Underground railways of their own.

From the start both cities plan to use line wires and driverless trains. The Finns have made more progress than the Dutch. In Helsinki an experimental train is already in operation, the Finns having made use of experience gained in Hamburg.

In Hamburg wire lines are to be extended to the full length of one of the two longest Underground lines. They will later cover the entire network.

At present the Underground is shopping around among manufacturers. "It is not merely a question of hard cash," Dr Tappert says. "Delivery dates are also proving a problem."

The man on the Clapham omnibus, a mythical figure in English law courts, understandably feels uneasy at the prospect of travelling on a driverless train. Engineering is all well and good, but a man at the wheel is more reassuring.

For the engineers the problem that is paramount is an altogether different one. What they would prefer are short trains travelling at intervals of, say, a minute at peak periods. They would really make the Underground an attractive proposition.

Current signals systems are just not capable of coping with frequencies of this kind. Wire lines ensure that an electronic eye guarantees safety. One train would follow so directly on the electronic heels of another that drivers would be superfluous anyway.

Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways, are also experimenting with wire lines in their modernisation scheme designed to permit regular speeds of 125 miles an hour on express services.

Expert assurances are forthcoming that this new technique is safer, more reliable and more economic than conventional signals. "We can," says Dr Tappert, "considerably reduce manpower and cut down power consumption by at least a quarter." Savings will obviously run into the millions in the course of one year alone.

To be on the safe side, though, Dr Tappert assures questioners, one train in three or so will have a driver who is capable of coping with any upsets as and when they arise.

No one seems prepared to say when driverless trains will start. At the moment Hamburg is having its work cut out laying wire lines and installing carriage telephones.

Once these phones are installed staff at a central control panel will be able to address all passengers in any train required via loudspeakers in the carriage roofs.

For some years Hamburg buses have been linked to headquarters by short-wave radio but on the Underground the investment is the precursor of a technique that will revolutionise public transport.

Egbert A. Hoffmann

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 20 February 1973)

High-speed rail systems jostle for subsidies

Before the year is out a decision wil[l be] reached as to which of the compe[ting] manufacturers of 300-mile-per-h[our] supertrains for the eighties is to cont[inue] to receive government grants.

The two firms in the running [for] continued subsidies are Krauss-Maffei [and] Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, both [of] Munich. The decision to come t[o a] decision was announced by a spoke[sman] for the Ministry of Research [and] Technology in Bonn on 13 February.

The electromagnetic hover pri[nciple] involved in both these firms' sy[stems] seems the most likely to suc[ceed] according to the Ministry in Bonn. Of t[he] two, Krauss-Maffei have a head's st[art] since their experimental track has al[ready] been constructed with the aid [of] government subsidies.

Trials of hovertrains and the AEG, B[BC] and Siemens electrodynamic system [will] continue to receive government [grants] however, particularly to maintain c[ontact] with other, similar projects in pr[ogress] elsewhere.

These research and development c[osts] must also be borne, Bonn points o[ut,] because of the repercussions of a deci[sion] in favour of one system or the other.

The final decision will not be taken [by] any single country. High-speed rail[way] systems only make sense on [a] trans-European scale, as Soviet ambassador Falin recently noted.

This country may prefer magn[etic] hovertrains but the French "air-cushion" hovertrain is still in the running.

Over the past three years the Fede[ral] government has invested 57 million Ma[rks] in subsidies. By 1976 this amount [is] expected to have risen to 320 million.

A high-speed passenger railway sys[tem] linking major European cities will [not] come into operation before 1980 at [the] earliest.

Heinz-Joachim Mel[chers]

(Die Welt, 14 February 1973)

Road deaths down

Road deaths declined marginally [in] number last year. According to [the] Bonn Ministry of Transport 18,[753] people died in or as a result of [road] accidents in 1971. Last year's figure [was] 18,735 – eighteen fewer.

These figures include injuries sus[tained] in traffic accidents that lead to f[atality] within thirty days of the accident. [The] 1972 figure may yet increase sligh[tly when] final, revised figures are submitt[ed by] Federal states and local authorities.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 28 February 1973)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Motor manufacturers demand revamped rail management

On the basis of a survey conducted by Professors Rainer Willeke and Gerd Aberle on behalf of the Motor Manufacturers Association a nine-point programme for revamping the railways has been published in Bonn by the motor industry.

Deutsche Bundesbahn's major shortcomings, the report claims, are an outmoded concept of efficiency and a bloated staff structure. Both prevent improvements in productivity that have already been achieved in other state railway systems.

Unless the Federal government swiftly inaugurates a comprehensive, long-term programme designed to improve the performance of the Bundesbahn its gloomy financial position will worsen to such an extent that the railways can be expected by the end of the decade to continue operating only by virtue of annual government subsidies in the region of 14,500 to 15,500 million Marks.

This, then, is the general tenor of the report issued by the motor industry. The nine points of the proposed programme are: –

1. The Federal government must reappraise its relationship with the Bundesbahn. The railways are badly in need of a clear political framework within which they can stake out their economic targets.
2. Where the Bundesbahn is obliged to operate uneconomic services for political reasons it must be ensured in black and white that the deficit will be met. Consideration must be given as to whether other modes of transport might not provide the same services less expensively.
3. In certain sectors the Bundesbahn must see to it that it covers its own costs, the responsibility being exclusively that of the railways executive. The railways must have no say in the amount granted in government subsidies.
4. The capital structure of the Bundesbahn must be put on a sound footing. Long-term debts must be converted into capital of the railways' own. Then, and then only, will the Bundesbahn be in a position to raise loans for rationalisation measures on which interest and capital repayments must be paid out of profits.
5. Rationalisation must be aimed first and foremost at cutting back the payroll. The Bundesbahn employs 14.2 members of staff per kilometre of permanent way, more than twice as many as the French and four times as many as the Swedish railways. Manpower productivity is lamentable when compared with operators in other countries.
6. Manpower ought to be concentrated on sectors in which rail traffic is more effective than other modes of transport, specifically road transport.
7. The railway parcels service must be cut back to a break-even network of 600 stations and profit-making long-distance passenger service must be increased in number.
8. The Motor Manufacturers Association considers modernisation of permanent way to be essential. This must not, however, be financed by means of an increase in mineral oil tax, particularly as road haulage and private motorists already pay a considerable amount towards the upkeep of the railways.
9. The Bundesbahn must become more efficient. On this point the motor industry is emphatic. This presupposes a more up-to-date range of services more in keeping with those offered by other modes of transport.

(Die Welt, 15 February 1973)

Compulsory safety belts

From 1 January 1974 the wearing of safety belts is to be compulsory in this country. This regulation is to be enforced not by police spot checks and fines but by instructions to motor insurers to bear in mind whether or not belts were fastened in processing third-party and comprehensive insurance claims.

"I rather fancy that this will prove a more effective measure than the mere risk of a fine," Federal Transport Minister Lauritz Lauritzen noted in Bonn on 20 February.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 21 February 1973)

Equinine number plates

Munich authorities plan shortly to introduce number-plates for horses, the aim being to prevent or at least reduce "wanton destruction" by horse and rider in woodland and the countryside.

According to Christian Petzke, the local authority official responsible, four- to five-inch long plastic number-plates are to be issued by motor vehicle registration offices and to be attached to saddles or halters in such a way as to be readily legible by pedestrians.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 20 February 1973)

Too many short-sighted motorists

Vanity continues to be a road safety hazard, the Federal Republic Green Cross concludes from a recently published survey conducted by the Allensbach market research institute.

According to the pollsters some 2.5 million out of a total 23 million motorists in this country are short-sighted and dissatisfied with their vision or the power of their spectacles but unwilling to pay the optician a visit.

They are joined by a further 1.1 million motorists who are longsighted and whose eyes, as they admit, could do with a little assistance.

The main reason for their reluctance to have their sight tested is, the Allensbach sociologists maintain, psychological resistance to the idea of wearing glasses. This resistance has, however, considerably declined over the past twenty years.

In view of the hazard that motorists with defective vision represent the Green Cross would like to see graduated compulsory sight tests introduced. At present motorists need only have their eyes tested when first applying for a driving licence.

Initially all motorists over the age of sixty are to be obliged to have their sight tested from the beginning of next year. Provided this item of legislation is passed, 900,000 motorists will be due to visit the official optician in 1974.

From then on younger motorists will face compulsory sight tests at regular intervals.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 February 1973)

■ THE ARTS

Germania Judaica library urgently in need of support

Three writers – Heinrich Böll, Paul Schallück and Wilhelm Unger – and bookseller Karl Keller met in 1958 to establish the *Germania Judaica*, the Cologne Library for the History of German Jewry.

There was an obvious need for an institution of such wide-ranging importance as the Jewish Library but looking back it is astonishing that the venture succeeded, based as it was on little more than the good will of individuals.

The Library's report for 1972 reveals the extent to which it has developed since its foundation. It now possesses 18,150 books, 2,050 of them acquired last year.

It has managed to expand and in some cases complete its collection of periodicals through photocopies or acquisitions on the second-hand market.

This is especially true for the two main newspapers for Germany Jews, the (Zionist) *Jüdische Rundschau* and the publication of the Central Association of German Citizens of the Jewish Faith.

The library also improved its collection of *Schild*, published by the Jewish Soldiers Association, the *Blau-Weiss-Blatter* published by the most important early Zionist youth movement, the *Israelit* and the *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judentums*.

The library was also able to purchase copies of *Die Rasse*, the periodical of the so-called Nordic Movement during the National Socialist era, and *Das Neue Tagebuch* published by Jews in exile.

The Library also contains copies of important Yiddish periodicals such as *Bleter far Geszichte* and *Sowjetisch Hejmland* to provide information on the political and cultural situation of Russian Jews.

The collection provides a systematic

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survey of Jewish history both in and around Germany. But a new project, which should be completed by the end of 1973, aims at filming 27 periodicals (with a total of 74,000 pages) with the cooperation of a small group of American libraries.

Some of these publications were issued by the most important Jewish communities in this country, others are cultural or religious works.

These works will give the library a wealth of material unparalleled in the Federal Republic. As it was, only the Frankfurt Municipal and University Library was able to contribute. It is no exaggeration to describe the *Germania Judiaca* as the only institution of its type in Germany.

As may be expected, the response is great. Its reputation can be gauged by looking at the institutions it is cooperating with at present. There are three in London alone – the famous Wiener Library, the Institute for Contemporary History and the Leo Baeck Institute (with branches in New York and Jerusalem).

It also cooperates with the historical archives and institutes in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, with the German-Israeli Society in Bonn and the Frankfurt-based Coordinating Council of Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation.

Deutsche Welle, the broadcasting station, recently agreed to take over the Library's collection of press clippings. The station will also continue extending the collection which will prove a great help as the Library was unable to carry on with this work for reasons of time and space.

But despite its recognised standard the Library's future existence is jeopardised. The money placed at its disposal in the form of donations or, as was the case particularly in 1972, subsidies from various State bodies are often provided for one special purpose and no other.

Money may be given for new acquisitions or for copies but it is rarely supplied to cover running costs such as salaries, telephone bills, postage and the like which will total 148,000 Marks in 1973, of which 33,000 Marks are not yet covered. This is what threatens the Library's existence.

As grotesque as it may sound, the *Germania Judaica*, a registered company whose members include a Noble prizewinner and three current ministers in Bonn, does not look as though it is to receive the modest help it needs.

This is not primarily the result of ill will but a question of ministerial powers. A number of ministers are in a position to grant subsidies for particular purposes, which must be able to stand up to examination before the Federal Accounts Department, they are even allowed to do this regularly but they cannot contribute to maintenance.

The Research Association would like to help but it cannot as its statutes stipulate that only research projects should be supported. But despite all its expertise and experience the Library is unable to start research projects off its own bat as long as its future is so uncertain. What is more, there has been a drop in the number of donations that are not linked with any specific purpose and could therefore be used to cover running costs.

Seen against this background, plans for a merger with the library of a university or other institute backed by public money can easily be understood. It is easy to understand the mood of resignation that has now set in after fifteen years of fund-raising.

But there should be some way of preventing the *Germania Judaica* from losing its independence. The reasons put forward against merely sitting back and waiting for the Library to fold are both a question of principle and practice.

Even if in the case of a takeover the catalogue remained unchanged, the stock was exhibited separately, duplicates were not sold and the continued subscription to all publications currently purchased was guaranteed (and these are only the minimum requirements), there would be justifiable grounds to fear a reduction in inter-library loans, an end to the usual information on library work and redundancy among the now completely confused staff. Gradually-acquired experience and expertise would be lost quickly and irrevocably.

Failure unpardonable

What would be even worse is that a country like the Federal Republic allows a library of such importance to fold just because of its failure to find enough money for postage and telephone bills.

The loss of independence would perhaps bother the specialists least of all, but the loss of reputation would doubtlessly and justifiably affect more than just the library.

An institution of this type which has kept its head above water for fifteen years despite all the difficulties it has faced must not be allowed to fold because of a thirty thousand Mark deficit or an annual budget of 150,000 Marks. The Federal Republic is not that poor.

Walter Sc...

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 February 19..)

Stockholm Philharmonic under Dorati impresses

Stockholm's reputation as a musical city is vouched for by the existence of two excellent orchestras, the radio orchestra conducted by Sergiu Celibidache and the Stockholm Philharmonic under Antal Dorati.

Apart from these two orchestras there are the opera, which possesses a number of outstanding singers, and avantgarde institutions of which the broadcasting services electronic studio with its computer and advanced technology is probably the most important.

The Stockholm Philharmonic was headed by conductors of the standing of Vaclav Talich, Fritz Busch and Hans Schmidt-Isserstedt before Antal Dorati took over in 1966. He had previously worked in Dallas and Minneapolis and, since 1963, with the BBC in London.

Dorati, a 66-year-old Hungarian, has always been a staunch champion of modern composers such as Bela Bartok, Arnold Schönberg, Alban Berg and Anton Webern. He also gave a convincing performance conducting the record version of Wagner's *Flying Dutchman*.

He has also recorded all of Haydn's symphonies with the Philharmonia Hungarica using the authoritative edition of H.C. Robbins, London. The mixture of accuracy and vital energy is one of Dorati's characteristic and most impressive features.

At their concert in the Jahrhunderthalle in Höchst, Frankfurt, Dorati and the Stockholm Philharmonic performed a work from the Swedish Baroque, nine movements from the long (24-movement) *Drottningholms Musik* by Johan Helmich Romans, a contemporary of Bach and Händel.

The suite was commissioned in 1744 to celebrate the wedding between the Swedish Crown Prince and a Prussian princess at Drottningholm Castle. It contains typically pompous and courtly High Baroque music though more discreet elements can also be heard occasionally. The influence of Händel is unmistakable.

The music remains within the stylistic framework imposed by its function and is of an appropriate standard though without displaying anything new. It fulfilled its original purpose and it also served as an appropriate entree to the main work at the concert in Höchst, Mahler's Fifth Symphony.

One of the most astonishing trends in recent years has been the Mahler revival. Many people have been tempted to describe it as a Mahler renaissance though this is misleading as Mahler never was a composer who gained general acceptance.

The reawakened interest is evidently due to two contradictory trends – the acceptance of Mahler as one of the first modern composers and the nostalgia for the turn of the century which is now in fashion.

But Expressionism and art nouveau or Jugendstil overlapped at this time and interpretations of Mahler vary according to the movement favoured by the conductor.

This has now been proved by the four record editions of his collected symphonies, performances of his other works or the adaptations used in Lucchino Visconti's film *Death in Venice* with all their neo-Romantic sentiment.

Dorati's style as a Mahler interpreter has changed. When conducing the Sixth Symphony some years ago, he impressed audiences with his almost march-like energy. His moderate simple interpretation of the Fifth Symphony in Höchst suggests that his study of stylistic problems and manuscript of Classical symphonies has left its mark on him.

Discussions on the correct way to interpret Mahler are in full flow. Uninspired solutions are to be avoided. Leonard Bernstein's exhibitionist interpretations which at times ignore Mahler's instructions completely are to be faulted as much as those conductors who religiously follow the score.

Mahler's own interpretations and statements and those of Willem Mengelberg, a man he held in great esteem, suggest that Bernstein is more in the right than the pedants. The concept of faithfulness to a composer's score also has a chimerical character.

Dorati's version of the Fifth avoids all exaggeration. This course is legitimate though it frequently jeopardises the expression of extreme ardour to be found in Mahler's music.

Dorati strictly adheres to a subtle intonation of the funeral march inconspicuously integrating the more violent passages that interrupt and give Bernstein the excuse to take a sudden leap in the air and order an orchestral furioso.

Dorati also tones down the passion of the second movement. The late Classical proportion of this performance was made particularly evident in the scherzo which is usually played with more aggression. But though a more relaxed interpretation cannot be imagined, it was nonetheless fresh.

The adagietto has had to suffer a smack of melancholy since the Visconti film but Dorati helped to rehabilitate it by forbidding his violinists to play vibrato.

Any assumption that this is a thoroughly modern interpretation is incorrect. It sounds just the same in intention on an old record with the Vienna Philharminic under Bruno Walter.

Dorati refused to create unity in the gay finale through turbulence and bravour and stressed the many facets to be found there. The Stockholm Philharmonic showed that it was an orchestra of considerable standard. The quality of the woodwind for instance could be heard in another work on the programme, the *Entr'acte* from Schubert's music for the ballet *Rosamunde*.

Gerhard ...

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 February 1973)

■ BALLET

Nederlands Dans Theater on tour

Not many dance ensembles in Europe are making the effort to introduce new themes, forms and styles. Among the exceptions, doing so energetically are John Cranko's Stuttgart Ballet, The Maurice Béjart Company from Brussels and the *Nederlands Dans Theater* from The Hague and Scheveningen.

In the programmes being danced by the *Netherlands Dans Theater* on its present tour of the Federal Republic and Switzerland there is an extravagant choreography by Cliff Keuter, entitled *Sunday Papers*. It is a composition for one girl dancer and two men, but, as the programme explains, it is not to be regarded as an eternal triangle "although such a combination often implies this".

And indeed there can be no question of such a relationship because a consistent action ballet of conventional kind would be quite contrary to the style of the ensemble on account of its conventionality.

A fable that can be described does not appear in the Dutch repertoire and in *Sunday Papers* we see a series of imaginary situations.

This may sound vague, lacking in artistic articulation, but it has nothing to do with an illiteracy of movement. *Sunday Papers* owes its impulse to the graphic arts. In it we see *objets trouvés*, for instance a car horn, which is to be heard as well as seen, car tyres, a kind of torch of rolled up paper which is set on fire and other things.

It is almost the whole bag of tricks of an art exhibition, more consistent and full of variation than in an exhibition, carried on into movement and changing situations.

The work gives the impression of being a tenderly ironic, wink-of-the-eye (not clever-clever) résumé of the creative art of yesterday. Elements of movement in certain sections seem unrelated, lost. One is tempted to speak not only of *objets trouvés* but also of *mouvements trouvés*.

The effect is dual. In its lack of logic, isolation and apparent senselessness the movement becomes a mirror image of a modern world, lost psychically. On the other hand, as far as classification is concerned: here, where the rhythmic continuity in the composition, a criterion of the dance, is penetrated, and in certain sections paralyzed dance ceases to be dance and becomes pantomime.

Is this essentially a mistake? It in no way devalues the quality of this dance drama, that is at times inconsistent. Rather we must regard this as a sign of its liveliness and vitality, which does not fall foul of any pattern. It does not cloy, does not become petrified clinging to a cliché of modernity.

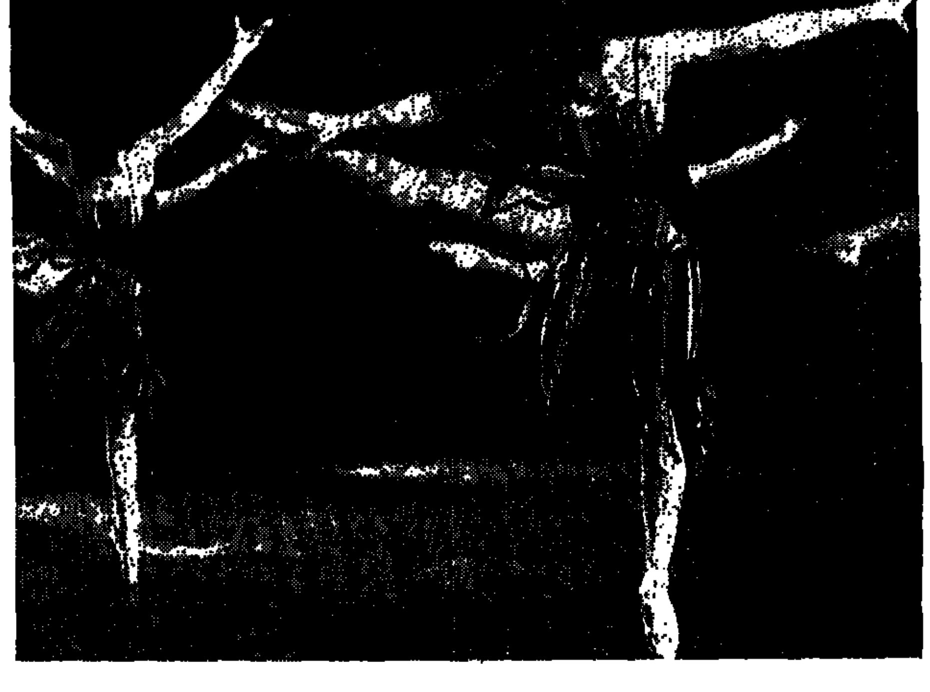
At the same time its modernity does not only lie in the themes, but also in the flexible readiness to keep an open mind about such contemporary streams (or springs) that cannot be articulated by any other artistic material, let alone in speech.

It is also up to the moment with regard to its formal language, its integration and the frequent simultaneous conquest of Classical Dance, so-called ballet in favour of experimental amalgams so movement.

One example of inconsistency, which was at the same time attractive, was the *Essay in der Stille* by Hans von Manen, a dance, which was nonsensically described as ballet and which had one programmatic point that set it apart: "without music".

Music-lessness, much older, is to be understood like the dance with music, reaching way back into prehistoric times and still exercised occasionally in the twentieth century. Here it was on a few occasions thrown into a dubious light. Logically this was not through the occasional, atavistic sounding cries of "ha" by the dancers themselves, but in fact by the music that does after all make itself heard at the end (*Dessins Eternels* by Messiaen), and also by the style of the first part.

The end effect was as if it had been obstinately tried out with music at first, and that then, at the end, when the stamp of the movements had been firmly imprinted the music was withdrawn.



A scene from *Symphony in three movements*

(Photo: Melsine Grevesmühl)

As for the content: this describes the connections between contemperary men and their fellow contemporaries and to society, or the negation of this, the lack of connection and contacts. I do not know whether I should have been able to understand this without the help given by the programme notes. Could I have read the content from the series of movements and the sparse scraps of action?

Still, paintings can often only be deciphered thanks to the title they are given. What is important is the attempt to take the language of dance, which of necessity is divorced from the language of words to depict a situation in which human beings find themselves today.

This has nothing whatever to do with the garbage and kitsch of dusty old styles of dance that are still pumped out today by opera houses everywhere to excess.

Even the vibrating relationship between ensemble and audience is given up. In *Sunday Papers* the relationship is more one of frigidity, sobriety, and a new, striking, constructivist sense of aesthetics, for example in the fascinating *Symphony in three movements* (by Hans van Manen, based on Stravinsky) where choreography quite prominently means spatial architecture. A dozen dancers seem to unfurl space, to change it, to roll it up, to swallow it and to spit it out.

Here dance does not take on an illustrative character. There is nothing here that could be compared with programme music. Objectivity is greatly reduced, even though we enter here and there into the field of erotic indications and to the borders of physical violence. The lighting has a part to play in the creation, but the stage setting and props have hardly any.

Nederlands Dans Theater, a model of experimental, boring vitality, is going through a crisis and will probably have to merge with the Dutch National Ballet. But it is not an artistic crisis. It is a crisis of management. It can prove step by step that it is intact – in every movement.

René Drommert

(Die Zeit, 16 February 1973)

A week of ballet to remember in Berlin

Ballerinas on parade: nine days of Classical Dance with such popular works as *Giselle, Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, offered in their entirety, dissected into acts and into select *pas de deux* and garnished with such immortal numbers as the *Don Quixote pas de deux*.

Oodles of Tsarist dance culture as no other German ballet has yet ever producted. What could and should be the effect of this "Week of Classical Dance" at the Deutsche Oper in Berlin?

From the start it enticed the public. Other things in the repertoire became an exclusive rarity. Berliners fought to get tickets and the ballet was the talk of cultural circles.

A second success: the documentation of the care taken over the Classics in Berlin and the qualities of the ensemble, proven once again, put extra backbone into the company.

Pride of place of the Berlin repertoire was the production of *Sleeping Beauty* by Kenneth MacMillan, staged by Barry Kay, which has for years been one of the most magnificent performances of German theatre. But now we have seen this production for the last time. The staff of the Deutsche Oper, Berlin, have nearly had a heart attack every time it has been produced because of the enormous technical difficulties involved.

Leave was taken, too, of two of the greatest ballerinas of this century. Dame Margot Fonteyn twice danced Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty* and also once Odette in the second act of *Swan Lake*. Although this was not billed as Dame Margot's farewell performance it is hard to believe she will be dancing in this country again.



Yvette Chauviré

(Photo: Deutsche Oper Berlin)

On the final evening of this week, however, the farewell to Yvette Chauviré was official. She is undoubtedly the most renowned dancer France has produced this century. Mme. Chauviré has always been a most welcome guest in Berlin, back in the days of the *Berliner Ballett* and later when Tatjana Gsovsky took over as ballet directrice.

Mme Chauviré has undertaken major foreign tours with Gert Reinholm, who is now once again head of the Deutsche Oper. Once again she danced the first act of *Giselle* and once again she touched on the lyric chastity with which she has endowed this, her greatest role.

The other stars went through their divertissement fireworks: Eva Evdokimova and Cyril Atanassov the *Sleeping Beauty pas de deux*, Monika Radamm and Hideo Fukagawa *The Blue Bird*, Heldrun Schwaarz and Peter Breuer *The Black Swan*.

This Berlin ballet week marks the end of the period of rebuilding of German ballet after the War. The complete lack of dance tradition in Germany, which is underlined by the acceptance of original choreographies of the nineteenth century almost without adaptation, has been a burden for ballet.

Late in the fifties Berlin produced a work such as *The Sleeping Beauty* in a completely revised new version. It was not till 1963 that Antony Tudor restored a Classical Ballet to Berlin in its original form. It was the *Giselle*, that is still in the repertoire today.

In a mere ten years all the ground that needed to be made up with regard to a dance tradition has been made up spectacularly, as we can gather from the impressions gained this week. But the efforts made are symptomatic of ballet in this country.

The signs of this regeneration were there – for the first time Dame Margot Fonteyn gave a German dancer the honour of partnering her. Hans Bosl from Munich danced with her in Berlin.

Terpsichorean development aid, such as that donated by Yvette Chauviré to the Berliners, has not been without its good effects. Evdokimova is the first ballerina who grew up in Germany to have conquered the international ballet scene.

This was a nostalgic and proud *nouveau-riche* and noble week of ballet and it was not allowed to culminate in vain edification. Berlin local heroes Didi Carli and Frank Frey grimaced their way through the *Don Quixote pas de deux* to the giggling delight of the gallery.

The Berlin Symphony Orchestra standing in for the opera orchestra which is on tour, struggled pitiably with unfamiliar scores and provoked the most vehement catcalls from the auditorium until conductor Andrea Apostolou left his rostrum. And some of the dancers, talented though they were, landed uncomfortably after far too risky *jetés*. Once again the ballet had its moments of pure joy and the kind of little scandals that are its life-blood.

Reinhard Beuth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 February 1973)

■ MEDICINE

Influence of working conditions on good health

Learning that he was to be appointed to a directorship, a 52-year-old executive thought he had reached his goal. Proud that he had climbed the last rung of the ladder, he quickly ordered visiting cards recording his new position and invited friends and acquaintances to a party where they could celebrate his promotion.

But a little later the news of his promotion turned out to be a mistake. It was not the 52-year-old executive who was to be appointed director but a colleague with a similar name.

The outcome was that a man who had always been healthy was unable to overcome what he considered a cruel stroke of fate, humiliation and shame. Shortly afterwards he died of a trifling complaint.

Admittedly, this is an extreme case but it demonstrates the extent to which social and psychological factors can affect health, especially in the professional world.

Employees have often been suspected of malingering whenever the sickness rate at factories rose to a comparatively high level. Many persons could not or would not find any other explanation for the rise in the sickness rate in recent years despite improved living and working conditions, increased safety and unmistakable progress in the field of medicine.

But this apparently paradoxical situation cannot be explained away by claiming that so many workers are malingering. Recent studies reveal that the real causes for the increased sickness rate at a time of good living conditions are frequently of a sociological nature. Experts estimate that far more than half of all everyday illnesses are linked with working conditions in the broadest sense of the term.

Hellmut Sopp, a medical sociologist from Neuss, has analysed the effects sociological peculiarities at a person's place of work can have on health. He believes that persons who like their work and think they are doing a sensible job are likely to be protected against everyday complaints.

His belief is based on thorough investigations. He examined a number of factories in which the work, accident risk, physical strain, age structure and income were similar. Workers at these factories also lived in the same district and went to the same doctor.

Despite the similarities, Sopp discovered considerable discrepancies in the sickness rate. While employees at a rolling works were sick for an average 29.1 days a year, workers at another factory only took 5.4 days a year off because of sickness.

Analysing his surprising findings, he found that the discrepancies in sickness rates were linked with the varying working atmospheres in these factories.

In another investigation Sopp found that a foreman took fewer days off through sickness than the men under him. "The foreman is the man who counts," Sopp explains. "He knows his worth and importance for the factory. Another important factor contributing to his good health is the considerably higher wage he receives.

The attitude of superiors is another important sociological factor that can affect the health of a worker. Wolfgang Kellner, the Giessen sociologist, maintains that sickness is often caused by other people.

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Kellner bases his theory on a large number of medical studies. The main finding of these investigations is that the sickness rate increases in direct proportion to the tension in relations between workers and their bosses.

While workers at an assembly-shop were generally satisfied with their boss and only took 7.4 days a year off through illness, workers in a repair-shop did not like their overseer and their sickness rate amounted to 21.7 days a year.

These men were not malingering. Kellner finds that bad treatment of workers leads to three main complaints – influenza, intestinal ailments and angina pectoris.

Unfair treatment by superiors can also cause serious illnesses. "Workers who feel discriminated against by their boss suffer constant or at least frequent socio-psychological stress, one of the main causes of heart disease," Kellner reports. "Discrimination can therefore lead to serious illness, early retirement or even death."

He concludes from his findings that "on the whole factory bosses could do much to prevent illness amongst workers and reduce the sickness rate by behaving more humanely or introducing better working conditions – not through pressure that only increases stress and the susceptibility to illness but through modern methods of leadership that improve the working atmosphere".

But these modern methods of leadership have not gained general acceptance in the world of labour. Only too frequently workers lick their superiors' boots and kick underlings in the teeth. Only too frequently can a complicated system of hierarchy be found in factories and offices and authoritarian styles of leadership are still rife.

Modern leadership techniques do not seem to have penetrated far into factory life. It is not surprising therefore that the majority of white-collar workers covered by a survey expressed more criticism than praise about their bosses.

But a good working atmosphere and the subsequently more or less low sickness rate does not depend on the attitude of bosses alone. Other important factors are a clarified system of jurisdiction, adequate exchange of information, a fair wage, promotion prospects, recognition and appreciation, a share in decision-making and the opportunity of teamwork and social contact.

If these conditions are not fulfilled or only met to an inadequate degree, this could prove costly to the company. A poor working atmosphere does not lead only to a higher sickness rate but can cause a rapid turnover of workers and low productivity. Above all, and this is frequently ignored, a poor social climate can be the source of great human misery.

Up to now firms have not paid enough attention to working atmophere as a factor in their calculations. They do not pay enough consideration to the fact that the modern firm must be more than a mere place of work.

Karl-Heinz Strothmann of the Hamburg Institute for Industrial Marketing and Advertising Research found that one office in three in the Federal Republic p[illegible] employees no incentive to work.

The rooms were too small [and] inadequately ventilated. Too [many] workers were cooped up in a restr[icted] space, leading to pent up feeling[s of] aggression that eventually resulte[d in] bickering.

Paul Lüth, a medical sociologist f[rom] Kassel, comes to the same conclu[sion]. "Many offices make their workers [ill]. Several organic complaints result f[rom] poor working conditions."

Dr Adolf von Geiso of Essen ther[efore] demands: "We must simply pay m[ore] attention to the human dimension w[ithin] a firm. It is not only machines that c[an] be kept running efficiently. Pe[ople] cannot be fitted into any one categ[ory]. Every individual is unique. Workers [no] longer look upon money as everything."

One of the firms taking heed of [these] appeals is the Salzgitter A G where a te[am] of ergonomists have been commissi[oned] to adapt duties to the requirements [of] the workers.

"Up to now planners have spent [80] per cent of the time thinking [about] technology and only twenty per [cent] thinking of people," they comment. [They] plan to reverse this ratio."

The ergonomists at Salzgitter AG [can] already chalk up a success for them[selves] in their fight for better condi[tions]. Secretaries have been provided [with] adjustable desks so that they need [no] longer distort themselves while [at] work. A crane operator who previ[ously] complained about the heat of molten [metal] can now work in comparative co[mfort] behind a special screen.

The social security administrati[on in] Baltimore recently adopted a me[thod to] improve the working atmosphere tha[t can]not be operated successfully in all fir[ms. It] tries to make the monotony of [office] work more tolerable by playing [music] and announcing the latest office [news] over a closed-circuit system.

Dirk Schub[...]

(Deutsche Zeitung, 16 Februar[y 1973])

Government publishes industrial accident figures

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

An industrial accident occurs every thirteen seconds in the Federal Republic, according to the government accident prevention report recently issued in Bonn.

Every seven minutes there is an accident leading to insurance claims on the part of the victim and every two hours a fatal accident takes place.

Labour Minister Walter Arendt described these figures as "statistics of misery" and announced that the government would continue to do all it could to obtain greater safety measures in factories. The measures already taken led to a slight drop in accident figures in 1972.

The report states that insurance companies paid out at least 5.2 milliard Marks in 1972 as a result of the 2.6 million claims made by the victims of factory accidents and occupational diseases. The statistics reveal that one worker in ten was the victim of an industrial accident during the course of the year.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 20 February 1973)

Hamburg research team to investigate work health hazards

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Professor Horst Doerken of [the] University Hospital in Eppend[orf], Hamburg, will head a research te[am] during the next two years to investi[gate] the types of occupation in which he[art] attacks are likely.

The team's findings should pro[vide] information on the possible causes of [the] number one killer within industrial [and] other concerns.

At first the team will compile statis[tics] about the incidence of heart attac[ks] among Hamburg's 1,800,000 inhabit[ants] with the help of hospitals in the city [and] the local Statistics Bureau.

At the same time 3,900 patients [who] have survived a heart attack will [be] questioned about their previous [work] and the start, type and course of [their] illness.

But the main section of the [...] project is an investigation in thr[ee] Hamburg concerns where factors [like] lead or carbon monoxyde that [cause] circulatory diseases are found in [...] quantities, if at all.

Recent studies in British [...] concerns where staff had a[n above] average tendency to suffer from [heart] attacks revealed that constant [...] consumption and other extern[al in]fluences at a person's place of w[ork] also lead to circulatory complaint[s].

Hinrich [...]

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 February 1973)

■ EDUCATION

Industrial Institute warns against student glut

The Industrial Institute has issued alarming figures and forecasts as a warning against over-ambitious educational planning. The Institute fears the emergence of an academic proletariat and recommends the joint commission for educational planning to prune its future programme.

Today one school-leaver in ten has the qualifications necessary to attend university or college. By 1980, the Institute claims, between 45 and 50 per cent of school-leavers will possess the advanced certificate of proficiency.

Converting these percentages into figures, whereas ninety thousand school-leavers are able to enter universities today, the figure in 1980 will be just under half a million.

Half of these will later want jobs within the university system and the other half within industry, Dr Werner Roepke, a member of the Institute, states in the periodical *Der Arbeitnehmer.*

Add to this medical progress, with the increased life expectancy this should bring, advances in the social sector, such as the flexible age of retirement, and the trend towards a longer period of education, Dr Roepke says, we can see the whole dilemma of a society believing in progress which burdens the smaller and smaller proportion of workers with the growing burden of old-age pensions.

Roepke also referred to forecasts claiming that the longer period of education would rob industry of workers to such an extent that the gross social product would be considerably reduced.

On top of this comes the change in the personnel structure within the education system itself, Dr Roepke points out. If the number of persons employed within education really does double by 1985, the proportion of workers employed by the public services would rise from twenty to thirty per cent, of which half would be teachers.

Dietrich Ranft, head of the joint commission's budget committee, suggests raising taxes in order to obtain the money needed for further educational planning. But Dr Roepke opposes this course on the grounds that increasing State expenditure would jeopardise the scope allowed to private enterprise.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 13 February 1973)

Low success rate among extra-mural students

Some one hundred thousand persons in the Federal Republic take extra-mural courses leading to State-recognised qualifications but only a small proportion of them ever reach their goal, according to a survey conducted by the State Central Bureau for Extra-Mural Studies in Cologne.

The reasons for the high drop-out rate are inadequate educational supervision, the shortage of suitable curricula and often the complete lack of any supplementary courses.

Although few correspondence schools in the Federal Republic publish statistics revealing their success or otherwise, figures do leak through. Last year, the

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Central Bureau estimates, only 1,139 extra-mural students reached university standard while 3,350 passed the State-run technicians examination.

Of the one hundred thousand or so persons taking extra-mural courses, 22,000 took general courses to complete their school education or reach university standard. Some 28,000 studied technical subjects, 39,200 economics and 5,600 engineering.

(Handelsblatt, 16 February 1973)

Hamburg's schools limit amount of homework given

Hamburg's 250,000 schoolchildren can look forward to a brighter future as teachers are no longer being allowed to set an arbitrary amount of homework.

Regulations issued by the city's school authorities rule that the amount of homework set should be drastically restricted according to the age of the class. These new rules take effect in April.

"We cannot dispense with homework altogether as the children always have the afternoon off," a spokesman for the authority explained. "But we want to avoid senseless tasks."

The amount of time pupils spend on homework will be restricted. The

Bremer Nachrichten

education authorities have largely adopted the proposals of the Hamburg branch of the teachers union.

Pupils in class two will not be expected to do more than thirty minutes homework a day, this period gradually increasing during their school career. Homework times for class three and four pupils will be limited to 45 minutes, for classes five and six to one hour and for classes seven to ten anything up to one and a half hours.

If a number of teachers take a class, they will be obliged to work out among themselves who is to set how much homework. If classes take place in the afternoon as well as the morning, no homework is to be set.

These plans are meant to make children's life easier and also help parents – in future teachers will not be allowed to set any work that the children cannot do on their own.

"Homework must always be linked directly to classwork," the spokesman stated, "and the children must never have to depend on the help of their parents."

This is the point that gives rise to most difficulties at present. Herr Norden, the spokesman for the Hamburg branch of the teachers union and himself a teacher, claims that many parents attend evening classes in order to help their children with subjects like new mathematics.

Dieter Stäcker

(Bremer Nachrichten, 21 February 1973)

■ THE YOUNG WORLD

Baad – the tough school for adventure

WELT am SONNTAG

They clear pathways, repair ski lifts and build wooden bridges which the waters from melting snow damage in the spring. They search for those caught in landslides, aid the injured and rescue mountainers from dangerous cliff faces. They climb up ridges that were once thought unclimbable and fight their way through ice and cold to a mountain hut.

At the mountaineering school at Baad for four weeks boys and girls between 15 and twenty, who normally sit at school desks and do their lessons, grab hold of shovels and picks, bandages and rescue sledges, mountain shoes and rucksacks. At the school one of three in this country (the others are at Berchtesgaden and Weissenhaus on the Baltic) the young people spend the 28 days testing themselves in unusual situations. They learn what they can do and the limits that they can go to.

In Britain there are the outward bound schools (a term indicating a ship that is sailing off on a long and adventurous voyage) established to teach young people character development that will serve them in good stead in later life.

Similar schools exist in this country organised by *Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Europäische Erziehung*

Ulf Händel, 47, said: "We create situations that are likely to recur in one form or another." Ulf Handel runs the school at Baad which is in Austria. He continued: "The situations that the boys and girls encounter here are general and likely to crop up again."

The exercises, based on the system devised by Dr. Kurt Hahn, 86, founder of the famous Salem school, include physical trainig, opportunities to use one's strength, training in comradeship and how to help others.

Ulf Händel said: "The central point in our training system is teaching young people to help each other and to mix up the various social backgrounds."

Ulf Händel means by this the coming together of people from all social levels. When an apprentice shares a room with a boy from a grammar school, climbs a mountain with him tied to the same rope, they ski together, the school gives to both a sense of cooperation, a widened horizon and understanding of others.

Baad is located in picturesque country surrounded by peaks 2,000 to 2,500 metres high. One of the ten teachers from the school points to the peaks and says to the young people about to begin a course: "Quietly take a look at these peaks. In a couple of weeks you will have been up these and down most of the ski runs..."

Usually the reaction is to say the least doubting if not downright sceptical.

The training is sport-orientated, devoid of cult and uniform and with nothing military about it. The boys and girls in the course go off on ski trips that last several days. They spend the night in huts that belong to the school and which are without lighting and they must cook for themselves. They take courses in first aid and how to go about mountain rescue operations, they learn map-reading and how to use a compass, and learn the important facts about rescue from landslides. They train with Aluja rescue sledges, and they learn how to construct an emergency sledge from skis and sticks.

School head Händel, himself a trained mountaineer and guide said: "We demand from the boys all they have got to the limit of their endurance." He continued: "The young people on the course learn the limits of their abilities and learn not to overstep them. Others learn how much more than can do. After a 800 metre run most of them are done in at first. But at the end of the course most of them can go on for kilometre after kilometre without any trouble. We train them on how to economise in the use of their energies."

Then the young people realise the obligation of helping each other. When in the mountains one of the group cannot go on any further and his rucksack is "far too heavy", the others help him.

Expeditions into the mountains include making and breaking the bivouac and in summer training in mountain climbing – one of the Baad teachers commented: "That needs a deal of courage when one looks down and and sees the others like ants on the earth. But in the end they get a kick and are proud that they have been able to manage."

Baad is a school for adventure, a school with an unusual training programme, a school where attendance does entail some risk. Of the 100 participants in the courses at least two suffer a broken leg and many others have to go back home with a sprain. During the winter course, that is concluded at the end of February, 'only' one participant suffered a broken leg. Ralf S. 16, fell with his skis on an incline which according to the teachers was not a dangerous stretch.

The Baad school has had three accidents that ended in death. In May 1964 a group of the school's pupils were surprised by a landslide. Two boys were smothered and five injured. In another accident a boy who had broken his toe went off on his own on a climbing expedition. He fell to his death.

The young people who attend the Baad school are not only the sons and daughters of prominent members of society, parents who are well-heeled. Large firms such as Siemens, AEG-Telefunken or Bosch send their young trainees on the Baad courses. The Youth Affairs Office in Munich invited a group of tearaways to take a holiday at Baad. One of this group was elected to be the leader of his "patrol".

Ulf Händel said: "Many of our old boys come back with their wives and girlfriends and proudly talk of what they did here."

Approximately 1,000 young people, a



Ulf Händel

quarter of them girls, take part in the Baad courses. Participants who cannot afford the 600 Mark fee for the course receive aid from the Federal government youth plan and the Bavarian Education Education Ministry.

The value of the 28-day course in the onetime sport hotel is difficult to compute in mere figures and the list of activities of the various groups is very long.

* They rescued a boy from Hamburg who had fallen down a 25-meter fall and was lying badly injured.

* They released a man who had fallen down a crevice in the cliffs and was helplessly locked in. They brought the man back to the valley on a rope stretcher made with posts and an improvised sledge.

* They provided help in the rescue of a nine-year-old girl who was swept along by an 80-meter wide landslide.

* They carried a teacher bitten by a poisonous snake to hospital on a rope stretcher.

Some of the young people who took part in the courses commented:

Steffen Harm, 16, from Hamburg said: "I enjoyed the comradeship best. We all got on well together."

Edmund Potsch, 19, an electrician from Augsburg said: "We overcame our prejudices. We had to depend on each other and made better contacts with each other in this way."

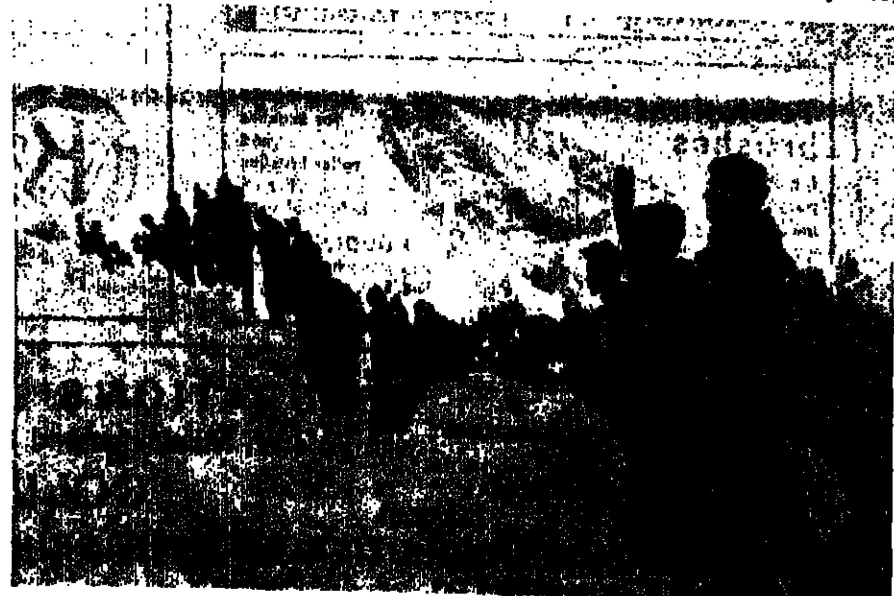
Jürgen Böhm, 17, from Erlangen said: "It's a fine way of meeting different people."

The physical training was not too tough, most agreed. Astrid Baumgartner, 16, a schoolgirl from Hamburg, said: "An hour with skis on your back going up the mountain is hard work."

She added: "In our group there were only two girls and we were completely accepted."

Egon F. Freiheit

(Welt am Sonntag, 18 February 1973)



One of the Baad 'patrols'

(Photos: Deutsche Ges. f. Europäische Erziehung e. V.)

Intensive German courses help foreign workers' children

The Contact Committee for Integration of Foreign Citizens record unparalleled success in teaching the children of foreign workers in Salzgitter, Lower Saxony.

After twelve months of intensive tuition a large majority of the 180 foreign children covered by the scheme reached a standard enabling them to be included in German classes.

They are now able to attend normal German lessons as their year-long course extended their knowledge of the language so much that following German-language tuition no longer poses any great difficulty.

Because of the sizeable immigrant community in the town Salzgitter schools faced the problem of having to educate foreign children who could not speak German. Lessons had to be constantly interrupted and the foreign children found themselves at a disadvantage.

The municipality, the Federal state of Lower Saxony, industrial concerns and the education authorities there cooperated in planning a scheme that achieved recognition throughout the country. Many other towns have taken over.

As the foreign children could not be attached to one school because of accommodation problems this cause, special classes were arranged in a number of schools to give them an intensive German course as well as in mathematics and other subjects. The prime aim was however to improve language.

Lessons in music and sport were held alongside German pupils and once the language stood in the forefront. When foreign children first began to achieve success, their enthusiasm increased and the initial reserve of their parents, Turks, receded.

Some eighty children were given additional help with their homework three afternoons a week. This scheme arranged by the labour welfare organisation has been recognised and accordingly subsidised by the joint central government-Federal state Education Planning Commission. Special attention was once again paid to language.

The Contact Committee faced a number of difficulties. More than nine Turkish families with a total of children of school age arrived in Salzgitter within the space of three months.

The children could not speak German and the course of intensive tuition already in operation had to be extended despite the shortage of teachers and accommodation.

The Contact Committee is concerned about the attitude of the Federal state's Minister of Education, believes that what it is doing is a social obligation and the knowledge gained could be employed to the benefit of foreign children in other towns as well.

The Committee claims that this country cannot afford a racial minority problem arising from the second immigrant generation as has occurred with the Puerto Ricans in the United States.

Integration is only possible through language. Only then can the children of foreign workers, most of whom wish to stay in this country, enter professions that will remain closed to them if they do not have any command of the German language.

Peter Altenburg

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 26 January 1973)

■ SPORT

Klaus Peter Thaler wins cycling title at London

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Twenty-three-year-old trainee teacher Klaus Peter Thaler of Lövenich had hoped to do well at Crystal Palace, London, but never had he expected to win the world championship title outright. Yet on 25 February Thaler outcycled all comers to win the world amateur cross-country crown in an exciting final sprint down the home straight.

One of this country's best road racers, he took the lead of a field of 52 from the start of the seven circuits totalling a distance of fourteen miles. At his side from the start was Robert Vermeire of Belgium, the 1971 world champion.

The terrain not being particularly difficult, Thaler for the most part contented himself with staying hard on the Belgian's heels. Confident in his reserves of energy, he was happy to play a waiting game.

On the last circuit but one it almost looked as though Norbert Dedeckere, the Belgian title-defender, was going to catch up with the two leaders, but Thaler increased the pace in order to shake Dedeckere off.

And so, in the home straight of what is, as a rule, a motor-cycle track, the two men fought it out. Fifty yards from the finishing post Vermeire was still in front, only to be pipped with ease by Klaus Peter Thaler.

When Thaler mounted the rostrum to receive the winner's sash, flowers and good wishes from Adriano Rodoni, president of the international cycling federation, a fellow-countryman of his was also there to share the honours. Ekkehardt Teichreber had ended up a surprise third and bronze medallist.

Thaler afterwards admitted that he owed Teichreber a lot. "He played the part of the brakeman when Vermeire and I went ahead of the field."

"I benefited from two mistakes of Vermeire's," the new world champion stated. "First, he did not want his fellow-countryman Dedeckere to catch up with us either. Second, he made his final break too early. I knew a hundred yards from the tape that I was going to beat him."

Is he planning to turn professional, the world champion was asked. "For the time being," he replied, "racing is out as far as I am concerned. I will be preparing for my exams until well into April and then only do I plan to consider whether or not to turn professional." Never before in the history of cross-country cycling championships have this country's amateurs shaped so well, accounting for four of the first nine, not only Thaler and Teichreber but also Übing and Jördens. One of the most gratified men at the finishing post was coach Karl Ziegler. He was near to tears as his protégés mounted the rostrum.



Robert Vermeire from Belgium, Klaus-Peter Thaler and Ekkehardt Teichreber, both from the Federal Republic, on the winners' podium at the Crystal Palace cycling championships

(Photo: dpa)

Among the professionals 34-year-old Rolf Wolfshohl of Cologne was rated favourite, having put in a tremendous amount of training in recent weeks in order to retire from racing in a blaze of glory.

His wish was not fulfilled, however. He came in third behind Erik de Vlaeminck of Belgium and Andre Wilhelm of France. De Vlaeminck has now won the professional title seven times.

In the fourth of eight rounds Wolfshohl had tyre trouble, losing 25 precious seconds and contact with the leading group.

In a chase that earned him the applause and encouragement of the spectators he managed to catch up with de Vlaeminck by the last round but one but his energies were so spent that he stood no chance in the last dash.

"Tough luck," Wolfshohl commented at the finishing tape, retiring to become sports manager of this country's Ha-Ro professional team.

Dieter Stein

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 February 1973)

Political sportsmen

Bundestag MPs are evidently more sporting than the general public realises. According to the Bundestag sports club membership now stands at over 1,100, including both MPs and staff. The judo and karate section of the club shortly to be launched will be the fifteenth.

The Bundestag football team continues to be in great demand both at home and abroad. It is to visit Dahomey and Togo at the end of April to play its opposite numbers there at the invitation of the respective heads of state.

At the end of May it is planned to hold a tournament in Bonn in which the parliamentary soccer teams from France, Switzerland and this country will compete.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 1 March 1973)

Too many people abandon sport when they reach 18

One person in five in this country, children and old people included, is a member of the Federal Republic Sports League (DSB). The 1972 membership survey revealed a total of 11 497 000 members, an increase of 703,000 on the 1971 figure.

No less than nineteen per cent of the total population belong to one of the 40,000 sports clubs affiliated to the DSB. The number of unpaid part-time club officials is estimated to be at least half, and possible three quartes of a million.

The proportion of the sexes in total membership statistics is 7: 3 in favour of the men.

The largest affiliate association is the Federal Republic Football Association, with 3,084,901 members, including 11,579 women of whom 25,000 to 30,000 or so are members of 1,788 registered women's football teams.

This, the largest football association in the world, pales in comparison with the membership of the Chinese and Soviet basketball and volleyball federations, both of which boast nearly ten million members.

The Soviet amateur athletics federation likewise claims some seven million members, but this figure is somewhat dubious.

The Gymnastics Association has 2,472,000 members, the women being in the majority. For every seven women and girl gymnasts there are only five men and boys. The gymnasts are thus the second-largest constituent association in terms of number.

Next on the list come the marksmen, with 743,999 members, the athletes, with 652,740, the swimmers, with 498,564, the tennis-players, with 442,963, and the handball enthusiasts, with 442,000 members.

The growth rate of affiliated associations over the past year has been 5. 7 per cent. It must be added at his point that there are other categories of DSB affiliation that account for 721,000 of the overall total.

The most dramatic growth rate has been that of the volleyball association, which has almost doubled its membership in a twelvemonth, the increase of 21,905 members representing an additional 90. 8 per cent.

Now abviously the volleyball players had a fair-sized backlog to make good, and it can also be forecast that membership will continue to increase on the strength of the fascinating display in the Olympic tournament at Munich, including encounters such as the women's final between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Surprising growth rates, though not of quite the sam order, have also been registered by the ski bob adepts (32. 7 per cent), the modern pentathlon specialists (29. 3 per cent) and hobby divers (24. 9 per cent).

Membership increases of more than ten per cent are also documented by the sports associations for badminton, basketball, ice sports, fencing, judo, riding, sailing, dancing and tennis.

A certain saturation point would appear to have been reached among the heavyweight athletes - wrestlers, weight-lifters and the like. Billiard-players, canoeists, and roller-skaters are also marking time, whereas oarsmen and water-skiers have gone into a numerical decline.

In retrospect specific periods in the development of the DSB can be distinguished. In 1954 the Sports League boasted 3. 7 million members, amounting to 7. 2 per cent of the population of the Federal Republic and West Berlin.

The four-million-mark (8. 2 per cent) was reached in 1956, five million (9. 5 per cent) in 1959. Between 1959 and 1964, however, the increase was marginal, representing a further 1. 3 per cent of the population as a whole.

The all-German Olympic team was abandoned at the 1965 IOC meeting in Madrid. This represented a considerable relaxation in the foreign policy strain on the DSB and Willi Daume and his associates were then able to forge ahead in boosting membership.

Success was not long in coming. In 1966 seven million members were registated, in 1967 eight million, in 1969 nine million and in 1970 10. 1 million.

Forty-eight per cent of the 10,776,000 members affiliated via membership of a sports association are aged 25 or over. The second-largest age group is the six- to fourteen-year-olds (22 per cent), followed by the fourteen- to eighteen-year-olds (thirteen per cent) and the eighteen- to 21-year-olds (six per cent).

Twenty-one- to 25-year-olds account for five per cent of members and the under-sixes for a further two per cent. Among the very young the girls outnumber the boys by far (113,222 as against 91,00).

It must be borne in mind, however, that precise details are not always available. Among footballers, for instance, fourteen and eighteen are the only age-group watersheds registered, whereas aqualung enthusiasts do not even differentiate between men and women members.

Many boys and girls leave their sports clubs at fourteen. As school-leavers they must first come to terms with the working world. This watershed tendency is even more apparent at eighteen when young people come of age.

Very many young people abandon sport at eighteen. Even bearing in mind that the Football Association does not group the eighteen- to 21-years-olds – boys and men, that is. Even assuming there to be half a million football players aged between eighteen and 21 the total does still not amount to over a million.

The corresponding figures for women and girls are 317,000 and 169,000. Even if all 11,579 registered women football players were in the eighteen- to 21-year age group there would still be a shortfall of 37,000 in this category.

This, then, is a sector in which the DSB can still put in a fair amount of work.

Karl-Adolf Scherer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 February 1973)